

Hafa Adai!

IPI faces new discrimination suit. **PAGE 2**

CNMI sees over 7K tourists since launch of travel bubble. **PAGE 3**

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AT A GLANCE

As of 6:27pm, Jan. 30, 2022

VACCINATIONS IN THE CNMI

Eligible Population
Fully Vaccinated: **99.2%**

Days since last community transmission **2**

Pfizer/BioNTech	
Initiated:	37,643
Fully Vaccinated:	36,465
Moderna	
Initiated:	5,320
Fully Vaccinated:	5,149
Janssen	
Fully vaccinated:	1,122

GUAM	OLD	NEW	TOTAL
Positive	30,221	1,583 ¹	31,804
Recovered	23,284	85	23,369
Active	6,567	1,563	8,150
Deaths	284	1	285

SAIPAN	OLD	NEW	TOTAL
Positive	4,564	208 ²	4,772
Traced via Travel Screening	526	13	539
Traced via Community Screening	4,038	195	4,233
Deaths	22	1	23

¹1/30=364; 1/29=402; 1/28=817
²1/29=80; 1/28=128

Source: Joint Information Center - Guam, Commonwealth Healthcare Corp., <https://www.vaccinatecnmi.com/vax-dashboard/>

COMMUNITY VULNERABILITY

LEGEND:

- Red: Least safe
- Orange
- Yellow
- Blue
- Green: Safest

Source: Office of the Governor

208 cases ID'd in 2 days

By JOSHUA SANTOS
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REPORTER

Between Jan. 27 and 28, a total of 208 additional individuals were confirmed positive for COVID-19, according to two separate Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. news releases over the weekend.

Also, as of Jan. 29, 10 are hospitalized as a result of COVID-19: five unvaccinated, four vaccinated, and one partially vaccinated. One of the 10 is on a ventilator.

CHCC reported last Friday

that 128 cases were identified on Jan. 27, 17 of which were found on Rota. By identification method, of the 128, 74 were found through contact tracing, 46 through commu-

See 208 on **Page 4**

Justices decline Senate's request to preside over impeachment trial

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Citing the absence of specific constitutional authority or directive, the CNMI Supreme Court has declined Senate President Jude U. Hofschneider's (R-Tinian) request for Chief Justice Alejandro C. Castro or his designee to preside over the impeachment trial of Gov. Ralph DLG Torres.

Castro and associate justices John A. Manglona and Perry B. Inos informed Hof-

schneider in a letter Friday that taking part in the impeachment trial could encroach on the authority vested in the Legislature and disrupt the balance of power among the three branches of government.

"We choose to maintain this balance," said Castro, Manglona and Inos in their response to Hofschneider's request last Wednesday.

The justices further noted that they do not view the Senate impeachment trial as comparable to a civil or criminal

See JUSTICES on **Page 4**



Brian Shin is 2021 Business Person of the Year

JOSHUA SANTOS

Brian Shin, chief executive officer of the Global Hotel Division of E-Land Group, shows the Saipan Chamber of Commerce's 2021 Business Person of the Year award he got last Saturday.

By JOSHUA SANTOS
joshua_santos@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Brian Shin, who is chief executive officer of the Global Hotel Division of E-Land Group, is the Saipan Cham-

ber of Commerce's 2021 Business Person of the Year. Shin received the award during SCC's "Business Person of the Year Annual Gala" last Saturday at Kensington Hotel Saipan's Kensington Hall.

Shin, who was chosen to receive the award by its previous winners, was among six nominees in all, which included AB Risk Solutions

See BRIAN on **Page 4**

CNMI updates quarantine, entry protocols

With approximately 99% of the CNMI's eligible population fully vaccinated and approximately 50% of those fully vaccinated having received a booster shot, given the epidemiological data and the state of the health system in the CNMI, quarantine and

entry protocols is being updated based on the recommendations of the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention on isolation for persons confirmed positive with COVID-19 and are asymptomatic.

In addition, COVID-19

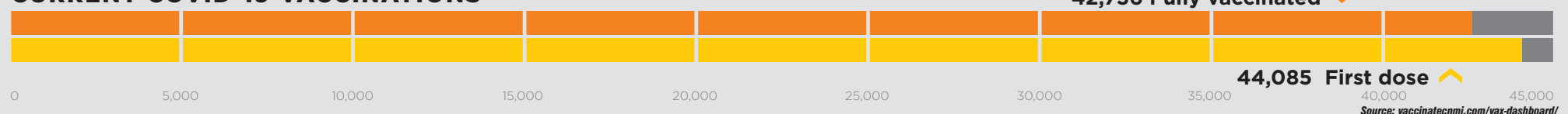
See CNMI on **Page 4**

IN BRIEF

- Update applies to positive cases and are asymptomatic;
- Home quarantine OK'd for at least five days;
- All arriving travelers will be tested for COVID-19;
- Pre-registration not required for COVID-19 CBT;

CURRENT COVID-19 VACCINATIONS

42,736 Fully vaccinated



Source: [vaccinatecnmi.com/vax-dashboard/](https://www.vaccinatecnmi.com/vax-dashboard/)

INSIDE



BUSINESS

United Airlines had announced exciting updates to its Guam-Honolulu service.

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WORLD

North Korea on Sunday fired what appeared to be the most powerful missile it has tested this year.

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LIFE & STYLE

President Joe Biden and first lady Jill Biden have added a green-eyed tabby to the White House family.

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Local

IPI faces new discrimination suit by former workers

Just when it seems as though Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC has started to bounce back from its previous lawsuits, a group of its former workers have banded together to file a new suit against the casino investor for alleged discrimination.

IPI, who has slowly started to resolve its several other lawsuits with former vendors and other former employees, is facing a new suit in the U.S. Dis-

trict Court for the NMI on the grounds of discrimination.

The group of Turkish construction workers who have an active lawsuit against IPI for not paying them fair wages have filed a new suit against their former employer and its parent company, Imperial Pacific Holdings Limited, alleging discrimination.

In this new case, the plaintiffs—Özcan Genç, Hasan Gökçe, and Süleyman Köş—

allege that IPI engaged in a company-wide practice of employment discrimination, both intentional and systemic, on the basis of national origin. They claim they were paid significantly lower than other workers who were in the same class and shared the same skills and experiences as they did.

As a result of IPI's alleged discriminatory conduct, the plaintiffs and other members of the class reportedly suffered

damages, including but not limited to, reduced wages.

The workers are demanding a jury trial.

According to the lawsuit, Genç started working for IPI in January 2020 as a foreman and the leader of the welding and drywall team. Genç's title on IPI's certificate of employment was construction carpenter, and his salary was \$21,840.00 a year.

Gökçe started working for IPI in January 2020 as a

plumber, master of pipe installation, and plumbing foreman. Gökçe's title on IPI's certificate of employment was plumber, and his salary was stated as \$21,840.00 a year.

Köş started working for IPI in January 2020 as an electrician and was promoted to electrical foreman in June 2020. Köş title on IPI's certificate of employment was electrician, and his salary was \$17,368.00 a year. However, since his promotion to fore-

man, his wage increased to \$10.50 or \$21,840 a year.

While the plaintiffs were employed to work on the Imperial Palace casino/hotel resort in Garapan, IPI also hired other construction workers, including Taiwanese construction workers, who also performed the same types of work that the plaintiff did and shared the same skills, qualifications, and experience. However, the Taiwanese workers were paid a higher rate. **(Kimberly B. Esmores)**

'Allow Senate minority to participate in impeachment review process'

Sen. Paul A. Manglona (Ind-Rota) asked Senate President Jude U. Hofschneider (R-Tinian) last Thursday to include the Senate minority in reviewing and talks on the impeachment resolution from the House of Representatives.



Manglona

which is chaired by Sen. Francisco Q. Cruz (R-Tinian).

Manglona asked Hofschneider to consider his request, considering that Gov. Ralph DLG Torres is a Republican.

House Resolution 22-14 impeaches Torres for alleged commission of felonies, corruption, and neglect of duty.

In a letter to Hofschneider, Manglona pointed out that, as it is right now, the two Senate committees that were appointed to review the impeachment resolution have 100% Republican membership without any minority representation.

The president earlier referred the impeachment resolution to the Committee on Judiciary, Government, Law, and Federal Relations, which is chaired by Sen. Karl King Nabors (R-Tinian), and Committee on Executive, Appointments, and Government Investigations,

Manglona said Hofschneider's memo to Nabors and Cruz does not express the necessity for a swift turnaround with a firm deadline. He said the memo also does not instruct the two committees to draft impeachment rules or view the impeachment rules from the 18th Senate.

"It is imperative that the Senate address this resolution as it involves government corruption and misuse of public funds," the senator said. **(Ferdie De La Torre)**

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CNMI sees over 7K tourists since launch of travel bubble

By **KIMBERLY B. ESMORES**
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

To date, the South Korean travel bubble has drawn over 7,000 tourists to the CNMI since it was signed back in June 2021, according to the Marianas Visitor's Authority.

MVA deputy managing director Judy Torres said that, from July 24, 2021, to Jan. 29, 2022, the CNMI has seen a total of 7,951 tourists under its Tourism Resumption Incentive Program, thanks to the travel bubble the CNMI inked with the South Korean government.

The actual number could be much higher because, according to Torres, the 7,951 is only a roundup of group travelers. This does not include what's called in the industry as foreign independent travelers, or FIT passengers, who make travel arrangements on their own and are not part of tour groups.

Originally, MVA expected over 8,000 tourists under the tourism bubble but the spike in the omicron variant of the COVID-19 virus resulted in a hesitation to travel as well as a suspension of flights by two of the three airlines servicing the TRIP pro-

gram: Jeju Air and T'way Air.

MVA says an influx of tourists is expected this month as both airlines resume their daily scheduled flights.

During an MVA board meeting last week, managing

director Priscilla Iakopo said Jeju Air and T'Way Airlines will resume flights in the first week of February.

In addition, the CNMI will see travelers from Busan, thanks to the current charter in

place with Air Busan, which started its charter flight service last Jan. 23 in partnership with Micronesia Resort Inc., the operator of the Kensington Hotel Saipan, Pacific Islands Club Saipan, and Coral Ocean

Resort Saipan.

Air Busan passengers will receive incentives such as travel bucks that will go directly to the passenger.

In addition, MVA will also provide a \$10,000 subsidy per flight will go to directly to MRI who is essentially spearheading the charter.

Grant application deadlines still open until April 1

WASHINGTON, D.C.—The U.S. Department of the Interior's Office of Insular Affairs has announced that the fiscal year 2022 discretionary grant application deadline for the Technical Assistance Program, the Maintenance Assis-

Reef and Natural Resources Initiative remain open for applications until April 1, 2022.

"Interior encourages applications from the Insular Areas to address critical issues and needs," said Keone Nakoa, deputy assistant secretary for Insular and International Affairs.

"We are especially interested in applications that address several of the Biden-Harris Administration's highest priorities related to climate change, energy production, natural resources, and health care."

As first announced in the fall
See GRANT on Page 4

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The Mobility Space is
Getting Greener
in the Northern Mariana Islands


The mobility space is getting greener in the Northern Mariana Islands, as Enterprise Saipan announced today that it has acquired hybrid vehicles as part of its fleet of vehicles serving Saipan.

This investment not only supports demand for safe and reliable mobility options during the COVID-19 crisis but also demonstrates Enterprise's commitment to supporting local economies and driving forward environmentally friendly modes of transportation across the islands as they move out of travel restrictions.

Enterprise Saipan also upholds its commitment to maintaining the highest standards of cleanliness in the car rental industry through the implementation of the Enterprise Complete Clean Pledge.

The Pledge further enhances cleaning protocols across Enterprise Holdings' brands and comprehensive portfolio of transportation options. This includes vehicle washing, vacuuming, general wipe down, and sanitizing with a disinfectant that meets leading health authority requirements, with particular attention to more than 20 high-touch points.





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Man allegedly drunk, falls asleep while driving

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
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REPORTER

A man tried to outrun Department of Public Safety police officers after officers tried to wake him up after he fell asleep in his car in the middle of the road.

Multiple sources told *Saipan Tribune* that DPS officers booked a man last Saturday after he was found asleep in his car and hold-



ROSELYN B. MMONROYO

ing up traffic in Garapan just across the Bank of Guam. Multiple videos also surfaced on social media confirming the incident.

Saipan Tribune tried to confirm this with DPS, but DPS had yet to issue an official statement as of press time.

According to a first-hand witness who requested anonymity, a red Toyota Corolla stopped in the middle of the road just a few feet past the

intersection across Bank of Guam at around 4pm last Saturday.

Concerned individuals approached the car to try and help and when they looked into the car through the driver's side window, they noticed that an unidentified man was asleep inside, allegedly holding a beer can.

At around 4:05pm, DPS officers passing by noticed the car holding up traffic and

stopped to see what was going on. However, when police knocked on the man's window, he would not wake up.

When officers stepped away for a second, the man had woken up and started to drive away slowly despite continuous commands from officers to stop.

Officers chased the man all the way to Liberty Department Store and cornered him there where he was arrested.

CNMI

From Page 1

testing pre-registration will no longer be required for anyone wishing to get tested at the community-based testing site but is encouraged to minimize registration wait time.

If an individual suspects COVID-19 infection, they should:

- seek testing;
- stay home to prevent transmission to others;
- rapidly notify close contacts of their exposure; and
- seek health care to facilitate access to medical treatment if they are at higher risk

for severe outcomes.

The Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. will continue to ensure every individual in the CNMI has access to information about COVID-19, to testing, and to therapeutic treatments without barriers so they can safely isolate themselves away from others and prevent spread to those still vulnerable to this virus, especially to the unvaccinated population.

Effective last Saturday, Jan. 29, 2022, individuals confirmed positive with COVID-19 and are asymptomatic

must stay home for at least five days, isolated from others, and wear a well-fitted mask around others.

If an individual cannot isolate at home safely, an order to isolate at a government site will be given by the CNMI health official.

Should an individual experience symptoms during their quarantine, their five-day quarantine period restarts to zero days on the day they have symptoms.

Confirmed-positive individuals who do not show symptoms or have symptoms that are resolving (without fever for 24 hours) can end their iso-

lation after five full days. After completing five full days of isolation, individuals must continue to wear a well-fitting mask, like a surgical, KN95, or N95 mask around others to minimize the risk of infecting other people.

The Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. continues to recommend and encourage residents of the CNMI to wear masks in indoor spaces or when around individuals outside of their immediate household.

A longer version of this story is available at www.saipantribune.com

JUSTICES

From Page 1

proceeding.

"It is a uniquely legislative and political function that does not fall under the purview of the judicial branch under the NMI Constitution," the justices said.

Last Jan. 12, with 15 "yes" votes, for "no" votes, and one abstention, the House of Representatives passed House Resolution 22-14, impeaching Torres for alleged commission of felonies, corruption, and neglect of duty, in violation of Article III, Section 19 of the CNMI Constitution. The impeachment resolution was transmitted to the Senate last Jan. 15.

Last Wednesday, the Supreme Court received Hofschneider's letter, requesting Castro or his designee, "as approved by the Senate," to preside over the impeachment trial.

In declining the request, Castro, Manglona, and Inos said that, unlike the U.S. Constitution, the CNMI Constitution does not mandate the involvement of a chief justice in an impeachment trial, so Castro will not preside over the impeachment trial nor will any other justice or judge be designated to do so.

They said in the absence of specific constitutional authority or directive, it would be inappropriate for the Judiciary, a separate branch of government, to concern itself in the internal affairs of another branch.

The justices noted that the framers of the CNMI Constitution clearly vested the power of impeachment in the legislative branch. They said the House has the authority to initiate impeachment proceedings by the affirmative vote of two-thirds of its members, and the Senate has the power to convict after hearing by the affirmative vote of two-thirds of its members.

"Absent constitutional directive, we will not take part of this impeachment trial," the justices said.

Last Thursday, Hofschneider referred House Resolution 22-14 to both the Senate Committee on Judiciary, Government, Law, and Federal

Relations, and the Senate Committee on Executive, Appointments, and Government Investigations.

Hofschneider said he asked the two committees to prepare the Senate for the impending trial of Torres, which schedule will be announced at a later date.

BRIAN

From Page 1

operations manager Shayne Villanueva, 500 Sails cofounder and career nonprofit finance professional Emma Perez, Bank of Saipan CEO and president John Arroyo, Bridge Capital LLC general manager and vice president Bart Jackson, and TurnKey Solutions business co-owner Billy Grow.

The announcement of the selection of the 2021 Business Person of the Year was the highlight of the "Cloaks & Tiaras" gala that also saw the installation of the SCC's new officers and board members. The event also served as the SCC's largest annual fundraiser for SCC initiatives.

In a later interview, Shin credits the entire E-Land for

the award. "[It's] not just me. ...Our company as E-Land never stopped improving or developing our products into better [ones]," he said.

As proof of that, Shin noted that the Kensington Hall where the gala was held was only built last year, while a sister-company, the Coral Ocean Resort Golf Course, reopened last year after an over two-year reconstruction period following damage caused by Super Typhoon Yutu. "We never stopped investing and getting ready for our tourists coming back," said Shin.

E-Land operates three hotel properties in the CNMI: Kensington Hotel Saipan, Pacific Islands Club Saipan, and Coral Ocean Resort, with more than 500 employees.

Shin said that E-Land played

"a fair amount of role" in making the South Korea-CNMI travel bubble program possible, with Kensington Hotel Saipan serving as a hybrid-quarantine hotel and Pacific Islands Club Saipan eventually becoming a hybrid-quarantine hotel as well.

"Our company is trying to do different things under the circumstances to boost tourism as well as protecting the community from [COVID-19]," he said.

Shin added that E-Land continues to be a part of the CNMI's ongoing efforts to keep the community safe from COVID-19 through running a quarantine facility, an initiative Shin said "is still ongoing."

When asked what he and E-Land would like to see in the near future, Shin simply said:

More tourists. "That's pretty much what we're hoping, not just our company but everyone in the CNMI, is hoping to have tourism back. As long as we're doing what we're doing and promoting [the CNMI] as a safe destination...I think we're in good shape," he said.

According to a BPOY nominee bio prepared by SCC, Shin came to Saipan in March 2020 as CEO of the Global Hotel Division. In this role, Shin oversaw the decision to operate PIC as a designated quarantine site in collaboration with the CNMI government, presented the initial framework of a Korean market "travel bubble" to the Marianas Visitors Authority in December 2020, the reopening of COR in January 2021, and several other achievements since then.

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nity testing, and eight through travel testing.

CHCC separately reported last Saturday that 80 cases were identified on Jan. 28, with one case being found on Tinian and three on Rota. Of the 80, 60 were found through contact tracing, 15 through community testing, and five through travel testing.

For COVID-19 testing efforts, between Jan. 27 to Jan. 28 a total of 1,706 COVID-19 tests were administered, this number consisting of tests conducted through community-based testing, referrals-only tests at the

COVID-19 Community Center in Koblerville, and testing conducted at the Tinian Health Center and Rota Health Center. Registering for testing can be done through <https://covidtest.chcc.health>.

Between Jan. 28 to Jan. 29 a total of 490 COVID-19 vaccines were administered, bringing the CNMI's vaccination rate to 99.2%. Registering for vaccines can be done through www.vaccinatecnmi.com.

As of Jan. 27, 2022, there have been 4,043 recoveries, 706 active cases, and 23 COVID-19-related deaths in the CNMI since March 2020. The CNMI's case total since March 2020 is 4,772.

285th COVID-19-related fatality in Guam

In Guam, the Joint Information Center was notified Guam's 285th COVID-19-related fatality was pronounced dead on arrival at the Guam Regional Medical City on Jan. 26, 2022. The patient was a 45-year-old male, vaccinated, with unknown underlying health conditions. He tested positive on Jan. 26, 2022.

"Gov. Lou [Leon Guerrero], first gentleman Jeff [Cook], and I send our thoughts of comfort and condolence to the grieving family," said acting governor Josh Tenorio. "Passings such as these remind us just how deep we remain in

the clutches of this pandemic and how important it is to not let our guard down."

How to 'Live COVID-19 Safe'

For those wishing to learn more about how to protect you and your families from COVID-19, CHCC asks the community to visit <https://www.staysafecnmi.com/livecovid19safe/>. The website has links to a COVID-19 guidebook, a "10 things" graphic depicting at-home COVID-19 symptom management methods, up-to-date CNMI entry and quarantine protocols, additional information sources, and contact information for those with more questions/ concerns.

GRANT

From Page 3

of 2021, applications for the fiscal year 2022 TAP, MAP, and CRNR grant funding, may be submitted by insular government entities, educational institutions, or non-profit organizations whose grant proposals are in accordance with 2 CFR 200 and will directly benefit the U.S. territories of American Samoa, Guam, the CNMI, and the U.S. Virgin Islands or the freely associated states—the Federated States of Micronesia, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, and the Republic of Palau.

Fiscal year 2022 funding for the Brown Tree Snake Control program has also been made available to OIA by Congress and will be divided among several governments and federal partners to include Guam, the CNMI, Hawaii, the U.S.

Department of Agriculture, and the U.S. Department of the Interior to continue efforts to mitigate and eradicate the brown tree snake.

To apply, visit grants.gov and use CFDA# 15.875. The deadline for submissions is April 1, 2022; however, it is highly recommended that applications be submitted as early as possible. Applications will be reviewed beginning May 2022 once OIA receives full-year appropriations.

Applications related to public safety and emergencies will be reviewed in a timely manner, prior to the April deadline.

Complete instructions on how to apply for these discretionary financial assistance programs as provided through the U.S. Department of the Interior's Office of Insular Affairs may be found at: <https://www.doi.gov/oia/financial-assistance>. (PR)

Rise in fuel prices result in fuel adjustment charge increase

Effective tomorrow, Feb. 1, 2022, the cost of electric power will be going up slightly due to an increase in the average fuel oil prices worldwide that will affect the Fuel Adjustment Charge of the Commonwealth Utilities Corp.

In a news release Friday, CUC said it has been notified by its fuel supplier, Mobil Oil Mariana Islands Inc., that there has been an increase in the average international fuel oil prices, which will affect the FAC. As a result, the cur-

rent FAC rate of \$0.20909 per kilowatt-hour will increase to \$0.23908 per kWh.

The FAC is one of two components that make up the CUC electric kWh rate, which is used to purchase fuel. The second component is the CUC base

rate, which is used to fund operations, projects, and debt service. This base rate has not been increased since April 17, 2014.

3 Saipan students recognized at Dixie State U

ST. GEORGE, Utah—In a display of academic achievement, three Saipan-born students have made it to the President’s and Dean’s List for the fall 2021 semester of Dixie State University.

The three honorees are Vinson Bacani, Daniel Montano, and Rovin Hillel Bacani, all of them from Saipan.

They were among the 2,627 students included on the honor

CUC is required, pursuant to an order previously issued by the Commonwealth Public Utilities Commission, to adjust (up or down) the FAC pass-through rate when the Mean of

Platts Singapore monthly pricing equals or exceeds a 4.5% differential of the average per gallon cost of fuel used in the calculation of the current FAC rate. *(PR/Saipan Tribune)*

Water service outage in China Town, Upper MIHA, Sugar King Estate

There will be a scheduled water service interruption on Wednesday, Feb. 2, 2022, from 8am to 4pm for Commonwealth Utilities Corp. customers in China Town, Upper MIHA, and Sugar King Estate.

CUC’s contractor for the China Town Waterline Re-

placement Project will be connecting the new water main to the existing waterline along Sugar King Road in China Town. Water services to affected areas will resume soon after.

This project is funded by the U.S. Environmental Pro-

tection Agency. The newly installed distribution line will be commissioned after passing the required testing and disinfection procedures. With the new waterline replacement, customers will be able to receive sufficient and beneficial water services. *(PR)*

rolls, which is 21% of Dixie State University students who made it to the honor lists. Specifically, 2,627 students were included on the university’s honor rolls, with 1,212 students on the President’s List and 1,415 on the Dean’s List. Inclusion indicates students’ strong commitment to their academic pursuits, as they must achieve a semester GPA of 3.9 or higher to be included on the Presi-

dent’s List and a GPA of 3.5 to 3.89 for the Dean’s List. Both lists require students to complete a minimum of 15 credits.

“Congratulations to our amazing DSU students who worked diligently this past fall to achieve the highest levels of learning and classroom performance,” Dr. Michael Lacourse, vice president of academic affairs, said. “We are proud of their accomplishment and recognition as members of the fall 2021 honor roll.” *(PR)*



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PUBLIC DISCLOSURE

NMHC hereby publicly discloses that on Tuesday, March 23, 2021 Ana C. Sablan, an immediate family member of Gregorio C. Sablan, a member of the US House of Representatives, applied for assistance under the Community Development Block Grant - Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) Housing Program.

Said applicant has been determined to be a member of a group or class of low-income persons intended to be beneficiaries of the assisted activity and is applying to receive generally the same benefits being made available to the group or class. Mr. Gregorio C. Sablan is not and shall not be involved in the handling of this loan application.


NMHC discloses this possible conflict pursuant to 24 CFR 92.356 in order to allow any interested persons to comment before the application is considered for an exception under the applicable conflict regulations.

Any comments should be submitted to NMHC on or before Monday, February 14, 2022.

Written comments may be faxed to Fax No.: (670) 234-9451, mailed to P.O. Box 500514 Saipan, MP 96950, or emailed to cnmi-cdbg-dr@nmhc.gov.net.

Dated this 31st day of January, 2022.

/s/
JESSE S. PALACIOS
Corporate Director



NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION
P.O. BOX 500514, Saipan, MP 96950-0514
Email: nmhc@nmhc.gov.mp
Website: <http://www.nmhc.gov.net>

PUBLIC DISCLOSURE

NMHC hereby publicly discloses that on Thursday, May 13, 2021, Janelle A. Cepeda, an immediate family member of Jacob Muna, an employee of NMHC, applied for assistance under the Community Development Block Grant - Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) Housing Program.

Said applicant has been determined to be a member of a group or class of low-income persons intended to be beneficiaries of the assisted activity and is applying to receive generally the same benefits being made available to the group or class. Mr. Jacob Muna is not and shall not be involved in the handling of this loan application.

NMHC discloses this possible conflict pursuant to 24 CFR 92.356 in order to allow any interested persons to comment before the application is considered for an exception under the applicable conflict regulations.

Any comments should be submitted to NMHC on or before Monday, February 14, 2022.

Written comments may be faxed to Fax No.: (670) 234-9451, mailed to P.O. Box 500514 Saipan, MP 96950, or emailed to cnmi-cdbg-dr@nmhc.gov.net.

Dated this 31st day of January, 2022.

/s/
JESSE S. PALACIOS
Corporate Director



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PUBLIC DISCLOSURE

NMHC hereby publicly discloses that on Wednesday, February 17, 2021 Jerald P. Cabrera, an immediate family member of Jatanna C. Atalig-Hocog, an employee of NMHC, applied for assistance under the Community Development Block Grant - Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) Housing Program.

Said applicant has been determined to be a member of a group or class of low-income persons intended to be beneficiaries of the assisted activity and is applying to receive generally the same benefits being made available to the group or class. Mrs. Jatanna C. Atalig-Hocog is not and shall not be involved in the handling of this loan application.

NMHC discloses this possible conflict pursuant to 24 CFR 92.356 in order to allow any interested persons to comment before the application is considered for an exception under the applicable conflict regulations.

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Dated this 31st day of January, 2022.

/s/
JESSE S. PALACIOS
Corporate Director



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PUBLIC DISCLOSURE

NMHC hereby publicly discloses that on Monday, March 15, 2021, Maribel D. Igitol, an immediate family member of Marciana Igitol, an employee of NMHC, applied for assistance under the Community Development Block Grant - Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) Housing Program.

Said applicant has been determined to be a member of a group or class of low-income persons intended to be beneficiaries of the assisted activity and is applying to receive generally the same benefits being made available to the group or class. Ms. Marciana Igitol is not and shall not be involved in the handling of this loan application.

NMHC discloses this possible conflict pursuant to 24 CFR 92.356 in order to allow any interested persons to comment before the application is considered for an exception under the applicable conflict regulations.

Any comments should be submitted to NMHC on or before Monday, February 14, 2022.

Written comments may be faxed to Fax No.: (670) 234-9451, mailed to P.O. Box 500514 Saipan, MP 96950, or emailed to cnmi-cdbg-dr@nmhc.gov.net.

Dated this 31st day of January, 2022.

/s/
JESSE S. PALACIOS
Corporate Director



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PUBLIC DISCLOSURE

NMHC hereby publicly discloses that on Friday, March 12, 2021, Soledad M. Cepeda, an immediate family member of Jennifer C. Camacho, an employee of NMHC, applied for assistance under the Community Development Block Grant - Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) Housing Program.

Said applicant has been determined to be a member of a group or class of low-income persons intended to be beneficiaries of the assisted activity and is applying to receive generally the same benefits being made available to the group or class. Ms. Jennifer C. Camacho is not and shall not be involved in the handling of this loan application.


NMHC discloses this possible conflict pursuant to 24 CFR 92.356 in order to allow any interested persons to comment before the application is considered for an exception under the applicable conflict regulations.

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Dated this 31st day of January, 2022.

/s/
JESSE S. PALACIOS
Corporate Director



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PUBLIC DISCLOSURE

NMHC hereby publicly discloses that on Tuesday, March 02, 2021, Tasha S. Cruz, an immediate family member of Francisco Q. Cruz, Senator for the Second Senatorial District of the CNMI, applied for assistance under the Community Development Block Grant - Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) Housing Program.

Said applicant has been determined to be a member of a group or class of low-income persons intended to be beneficiaries of the assisted activity and is applying to receive generally the same benefits being made available to the group or class. Mr. Francisco Q. Cruz is not and shall not be involved in the handling of this loan application.

NMHC discloses this possible conflict pursuant to 24 CFR 92.356 in order to allow any interested persons to comment before the application is considered for an exception under the applicable conflict regulations.

Any comments should be submitted to NMHC on or before Monday, February 14, 2022.

Written comments may be faxed to Fax No.: (670) 234-9451, mailed to P.O. Box 500514 Saipan, MP 96950, or emailed to cnmi-cdbg-dr@nmhc.gov.net.

Dated this 31st day of January, 2022.

/s/
JESSE S. PALACIOS
Corporate Director

Kilili says PUA/PFUC claims backlog reduced slightly

The Pandemic Unemployment Assistance and Federal Pandemic Unemployment Compensation claims backlog in the Marianas has gone down a bit, according to Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP) over the weekend. Sablan disclosed in his e-kilili newsletter that the data his office received this week from the U.S. Department of

Labor show that the number of pending claims for PUA and FPUC went down last December from 348 to 280. He said, however, that, as of Jan. 15, 2022, no additional claims pending before the CNMI Department of Labor has been resolved. Sablan said another \$6.8 million of the funding U.S. Congress provided in the


Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act was paid out between Dec. 4, 2021 and Jan. 15, 2022. He said the total PUA and PFUC benefits paid in the Marianas so far totals \$268 million. Sablan earlier disclosed that a total of 16,788 applicants have already received assistance since the PUA and PFUC programs began in June 2020.

‘IPI still making timely payroll’

Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC continues to pay its employees on time, according to IPI human resources director Reddie Dela Cruz Thursday. Dela Cruz disclosed during the Commonwealth Casino Commission board’s monthly meeting that, as far as payroll is concerned, that is being paid on time. “We are expecting payoff to occur today,” said the IPI HR director, who joined the meeting through a video call. On other matters, she said she will report that the payout of benefits to workers is tied into the mediation conference scheduled with the U.S. Department of Labor. Dela Cruz said the media-

tion is tentatively scheduled for Feb. 15 and the 16. “Until we are able to go through that mediation conference successfully with the U.S. Department of Labor, I will come back to the commissioners and report on the decisions going to be taken in that matter,” she said. On CCC board chairman Edward C. DeLeon Guerrero’s inquiry about workmen’s compensation, Dela Cruz confirmed that, as of that day, they do not have workers’ compensation coverage. She said they also have no medical benefits for employees. Dela Cruz said having such benefits will happen after IPI cures its outstanding balances with previous vendors. She also confirmed that IPI has outstanding balances with

health clinics on Saipan. At this point, the director said, it’s just a matter of receiving funding from their parent company in Hong Kong. Dela Cruz said there are many priorities for payouts, but there are things that come up as a higher priorities such as the removal of tower cranes at the casino/resort project site. **(Ferdie De La Torre)** He said total aid to Marianas workers as of Dec. 4, 2021, is \$260,885,306—an average of \$15,540 per eligible applicants. CNMI Labor Secretary Vicky Benavente earlier stated that the official closeout date of the PUA/PFUC is June 2022, and any unspent funds under the program will be returned to U.S. Labor. **(Ferdie De La Torre)**



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PUBLIC DISCLOSURE

NMHC hereby publicly discloses that on Friday, June 4, 2021, Anthony Alepuvo and Jesselyn B. Dris-Alepuvo, immediate family members of Roger Dris, employee of NMHC, applied for assistance under the Community Development Block Grant - Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) Housing Program.

Said applicant has been determined to be a member of a group or class of low-income persons intended to be beneficiaries of the assisted activity and is applying to receive generally the same benefits being made available to the group or class. Mr. Roger Dris is not and shall not be involved in the handling of this loan application.


NMHC discloses this possible conflict pursuant to 24 CFR 92.356 in order to allow any interested persons to comment before the application is considered for an exception under the applicable conflict regulations.

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Dated this 31st day of January, 2022.

/s/
JESSE S. PALACIOS
Corporate Director



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PUBLIC DISCLOSURE

NMHC hereby publicly discloses that on Friday, April 30, 2021, Janessa C. Santos, an immediate family member of Kristian Santos, an employee of NMHC, applied for assistance under the Community Development Block Grant - Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) Housing Program.

Said applicant has been determined to be a member of a group or class of low-income persons intended to be beneficiaries of the assisted activity and is applying to receive generally the same benefits being made available to the group or class. Mr. Kristian Santos is not and shall not be involved in the handling of this loan application.

NMHC discloses this possible conflict pursuant to 24 CFR 92.356 in order to allow any interested persons to comment before the application is considered for an exception under the applicable conflict regulations.

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Written comments may be faxed to Fax No.: (670) 234-9451, mailed to P.O. Box 500514 Saipan, MP 96950, or emailed to cnmi-cdbg-dr@nmhcgov.net.

Dated this 31st day of January, 2022.

/s/
JESSE S. PALACIOS
Corporate Director



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PUBLIC DISCLOSURE

NMHC hereby publicly discloses that on Friday, April 23, 2021, Joey A. San Nicolas, an immediate family member of Patrick H. San Nicolas, a Congressman for the 22nd Commonwealth Legislature, applied for assistance under the Community Development Block Grant - Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) Housing Program.

Said applicant has been determined to be a member of a group or class of low-income persons intended to be beneficiaries of the assisted activity and is applying to receive generally the same benefits being made available to the group or class. Mr. Patrick H. San Nicolas is not and shall not be involved in the handling of this loan application.


NMHC discloses this possible conflict pursuant to 24 CFR 92.356 in order to allow any interested persons to comment before the application is considered for an exception under the applicable conflict regulations.

Any comments should be submitted to NMHC on or before Monday, February 14, 2022.

Written comments may be faxed to Fax No.: (670) 234-9451, mailed to P.O. Box 500514 Saipan, MP 96950, or emailed to cnmi-cdbg-dr@nmhcgov.net.

Dated this 31st day of January, 2022.

/s/
JESSE S. PALACIOS
Corporate Director



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PUBLIC DISCLOSURE

NMHC hereby publicly discloses that on Tuesday, March 2, 2021, Joseph E. Santos, a Chairman for the 18th Tinian Municipal Council, applied for assistance under the Community Development Block Grant - Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) Housing Program.

Said applicant has been determined to be a member of a group or class of low-income persons intended to be beneficiaries of the assisted activity and is applying to receive generally the same benefits being made available to the group or class. Mr. Joseph E. Santos is not and shall not be involved in the handling of this loan application.

NMHC discloses this possible conflict pursuant to 24 CFR 92.356 in order to allow any interested persons to comment before the application is considered for an exception under the applicable conflict regulations.

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Dated this 31st day of January, 2022.

/s/
JESSE S. PALACIOS
Corporate Director



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PUBLIC DISCLOSURE

NMHC hereby publicly discloses that on Friday, June 18, 2021, Thomas K. Sablan, an immediate family member of Remedio Reyes, an employee of NMHC, applied for assistance under the Community Development Block Grant - Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) Housing Program.

Said applicant has been determined to be a member of a group or class of low-income persons intended to be beneficiaries of the assisted activity and is applying to receive generally the same benefits being made available to the group or class. Ms. Remedio Reyes is not and shall not be involved in the handling of this loan application.

NMHC discloses this possible conflict pursuant to 24 CFR 92.356 in order to allow any interested persons to comment before the application is considered for an exception under the applicable conflict regulations.

Any comments should be submitted to NMHC on or before Monday, February 14, 2022.

Written comments may be faxed to Fax No.: (670) 234-9451, mailed to P.O. Box 500514 Saipan, MP 96950, or emailed to cnmi-cdbg-dr@nmhcgov.net.

Dated this 31st day of January, 2022.

/s/
JESSE S. PALACIOS
Corporate Director



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Website: http://www.nmhcgov.net

PUBLIC DISCLOSURE

NMHC hereby publicly discloses that on Monday, March 8, 2021, Thomas S. Sablan and Emy R. Sablan, immediate family members of Remedio Reyes, an employee of NMHC, applied for assistance under the Community Development Block Grant - Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) Housing Program.

Said applicant has been determined to be a member of a group or class of low-income persons intended to be beneficiaries of the assisted activity and is applying to receive generally the same benefits being made available to the group or class. Ms. Remedio Reyes is not and shall not be involved in the handling of this loan application.

NMHC discloses this possible conflict pursuant to 24 CFR 92.356 in order to allow any interested persons to comment before the application is considered for an exception under the applicable conflict regulations.

Any comments should be submitted to NMHC on or before Monday, February 14, 2022.

Written comments may be faxed to Fax No.: (670) 234-9451, mailed to P.O. Box 500514 Saipan, MP 96950, or emailed to cnmi-cdbg-dr@nmhcgov.net.

Dated this 31st day of January, 2022.

/s/
JESSE S. PALACIOS
Corporate Director

Three named outstanding NMC employees

As part of its efforts to recognize and acknowledge staff members' hard work and commitment to students, the Northern Marianas College Staff Senate named three employees as "Staff of the Quarter" awardees.

The three are marketing coordinator Miguel Dandan, financial aid counselor Verna Deleon Guerrero, and accountant Catherine "Kitty" Villagomez. Each of them will receive a monetary prize and a reserved parking slot for the quarter.

"Congratulations to Miguel

Dandan, Catherine 'Kitty' Villagomez, and Verna Deleon Guerrero who are the last three staff members to be honored as Staff of the Quarter for 2021," said NMC Staff Senate president Geri Rodgers. "While we recognize that the staff at the college collectively exemplify a hardworking spirit, these three were peer-selected for this special honor. Thank you, Miguel, Kitty, and Verna for your efforts toward making processes run smoothly at the college. We appreciate you!"

The Staff Senate sponsored a Spring Coffee Connection employee gathering event to announce the awards.

"I am very thankful and honored that my coworkers voted for me to have this distinction," Dandan said. "I'd like to thank my team at Institutional Advancement as well, as I would not have been able to receive this award without their help."

Deleon Guerrero shared the same sentiments. "I am extremely happy to receive the award," she said. "It is an honor to be the first Student Support Service awardee. I am grate-

ful for the recognition, support, and opportunity to work with a group of dedicated colleagues."

Villagomez also said she is "truly grateful" to have received the award. "I am thankful for my colleagues in recognizing my value and hard work I have for this institution and towards higher education as well," Villagomez said.

NMC president Dr. Galvin Deleon Guerrero also expressed his congratulations and thanks to the three employees for their hard work and dedication to the college.

"Miguel, Verna, and Cath-

erine do so much for our *Proa* tribe," Deleon Guerrero said. "I, along with the NMC com-

munity, express our gratitude toward these hardworking individuals." (NMC)



Miguel Dandan.

NMC



Verna Deleon Guerrero.

NMC



Catherine 'Kitty' Villagomez.

NMC

PUBLIC NOTICE

Case No. 1:20-CV-00034 Court ordered public sale of the leasehold interest for Lot 019 D 61 and Lot 019 D 83 located on Navy Hill, Saipan.

Sale will be held at the property site **February 15, 2022 at 11:00a.m.** The property has an incomplete 5 story apartment building improvement with 31 apartments overlooking the ocean. Bidders must register by contacting saipanhomes@gmail.com. Registered bidders will be notified of a viewing date and time and make available a copy of existing lease.

Terms of the sale can be seen at www.saipanservices.com or call the limited receiver at 670-287-4766 for additional information.



NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

NMHC JVA NO.	Positions:	Salary:	Opening Date	Closing Date
2022-005	Executive Assistant to the Board of Directors	\$30,000.00-\$40,000.00 per annum- UNGRADED	Jan. 27, 2022	Feb. 16, 2022 4:00 PM

Employment application form, detailed job description, qualification requirements and other information may be accessed at www.nmhc.gov.net.

Applicants may submit their applications through the following options: Submission at the NMHC Central Office in Garapan, Saipan; or at the Drop Box located in front of the NMHC Central Office building; or email application and documents to officemanager@nmhc.gov.net.

All applicants must complete and submit the NMHC Employment Application Form together with required documents that are listed in the Employment Application Package. Failure to provide the required documents will result in automatic disqualification. NMHC and all its properties are drug-free zones; therefore, selected applicant will be subject to pre-employment drug screening.

It is the policy of the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) that the merit system will be applied and administered according to the principle of equal opportunity for all citizens and nationals as defined by its personnel regulations and the Northern Marianas Commonwealth Constitution regardless of age, race, sex, religion, political affiliation or belief, marital status, disability or place of origin.

For inquiries, please contact Mr. Jacob Muna, Office Manager, at (670) 234-6866/9447 or by email to officemanager@nmhc.gov.net. NMHC is a fair housing agency and an equal opportunity provider, lender and employer.

/s/

JESSE S. PALACIOS
Corporate Director



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PUBLIC DISCLOSURE

NMHC hereby publicly discloses that on Wednesday, June 2, 2021, Mary M. Sablan, an immediate family member of Doraine Camacho, an employee of NMHC, applied for assistance under the Community Development Block Grant - Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) Housing Program.

Said applicant has been determined to be a member of a group or class of low-income persons intended to be beneficiaries of the assisted activity and is applying to receive generally the same benefits being made available to the group or class. Ms. Doraine Camacho is not and shall not be involved in the handling of this loan application.

NMHC discloses this possible conflict pursuant to 24 CFR 92.356 in order to allow any interested persons to comment before the application is considered for an exception under the applicable conflict regulations.

Any comments should be submitted to NMHC on or before Monday, February 14, 2022.

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Dated this 31st day of January, 2022.

/s/

JESSE S. PALACIOS
Corporate Director



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PUBLIC DISCLOSURE

NMHC hereby publicly discloses that on Tuesday, February 23, 2021, Janella M. Babauta, an immediate family member of Oscar M. Babauta, a board member of NMHC, applied for assistance under the Community Development Block Grant - Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) Housing Program.

Said applicant has been determined to be a member of a group or class of low-income persons intended to be beneficiaries of the assisted activity and is applying to receive generally the same benefits being made available to the group or class. Mr. Oscar M. Babauta is not and shall not be involved in the handling of this loan application.

NMHC discloses this possible conflict pursuant to 24 CFR 92.356 in order to allow any interested persons to comment before the application is considered for an exception under the applicable conflict regulations.

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Dated this 31st day of January, 2022.

/s/

JESSE S. PALACIOS
Corporate Director



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PUBLIC DISCLOSURE

NMHC hereby publicly discloses that on Wednesday, April 7, 2021, Franklin T. Sablan and Dolores B. Sablan, immediate family members of Melvin M. Sablan, an employee of NMHC, applied for assistance under the Community Development Block Grant - Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) Housing Program.

Said applicant has been determined to be a member of a group or class of low-income persons intended to be beneficiaries of the assisted activity and is applying to receive generally the same benefits being made available to the group or class. Mr. Melvin M. Sablan is not and shall not be involved in the handling of this loan application.

NMHC discloses this possible conflict pursuant to 24 CFR 92.356 in order to allow any interested persons to comment before the application is considered for an exception under the applicable conflict regulations.

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Dated this 31st day of January, 2022.

/s/

JESSE S. PALACIOS
Corporate Director

Opinion

Hafa Adai! Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
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MEMBER

AP The Associated Press

Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

No more excuses. Open schools now

It's hard to believe that two years into this pandemic, we're having to repeat this: Schools must get kids back into the classroom. The continued disruptions have proven damaging to students and their families, and at this point, the learning gaps will be difficult to erase.

Some districts in Michigan, including the state's largest in Detroit, have refused to let their students return following their winter break. The Detroit Public Schools Community District, which has 50,000 students, has remained closed all month and claims it will reopen Monday. Flint schools, on the other hand, are shuttered indefinitely.

That's despite schools here getting \$6 billion from federal COVID bills, with high-poverty schools like Detroit and Flint getting the biggest influx. Flint schools received \$40,000 per child, and Detroit got at least \$24,000.

The excuse this time is the omicron variant, but top health experts have maintained that schools have the tools they need to open safely—and a lot of money.

Plus, the negative effects of keeping children out of schools—to both their academic and mental health—far outweigh the risks they may encounter in class.

Earlier this month, Dr. Anthony Fauci, President Joe Biden's chief medical adviser, put it this way: "... it's safe enough to get those kids back to school, balanced against the deleterious effects of keeping them out."

Gov. Gretchen Whitmer has also started paying lip service to getting all schools open. She's said she has had conversations with legislative leaders about how to make this happen. But she has stopped short of making a firm call to open schools. It's time she did that.

Even Biden, who most of last year let teachers unions call the shots on keeping schools closed, has become an advocate for in-person learning. He points to the \$140 billion in federal aid schools received last year for safety measures and testing.

"We know that our kids can be safe when in school," he said this month. "I believe schools should remain open. They have what they need."

The White House has said 96% of schools are open as of this month, compared with less than 50% a year ago. That's good progress.

So what's going on in Michigan?

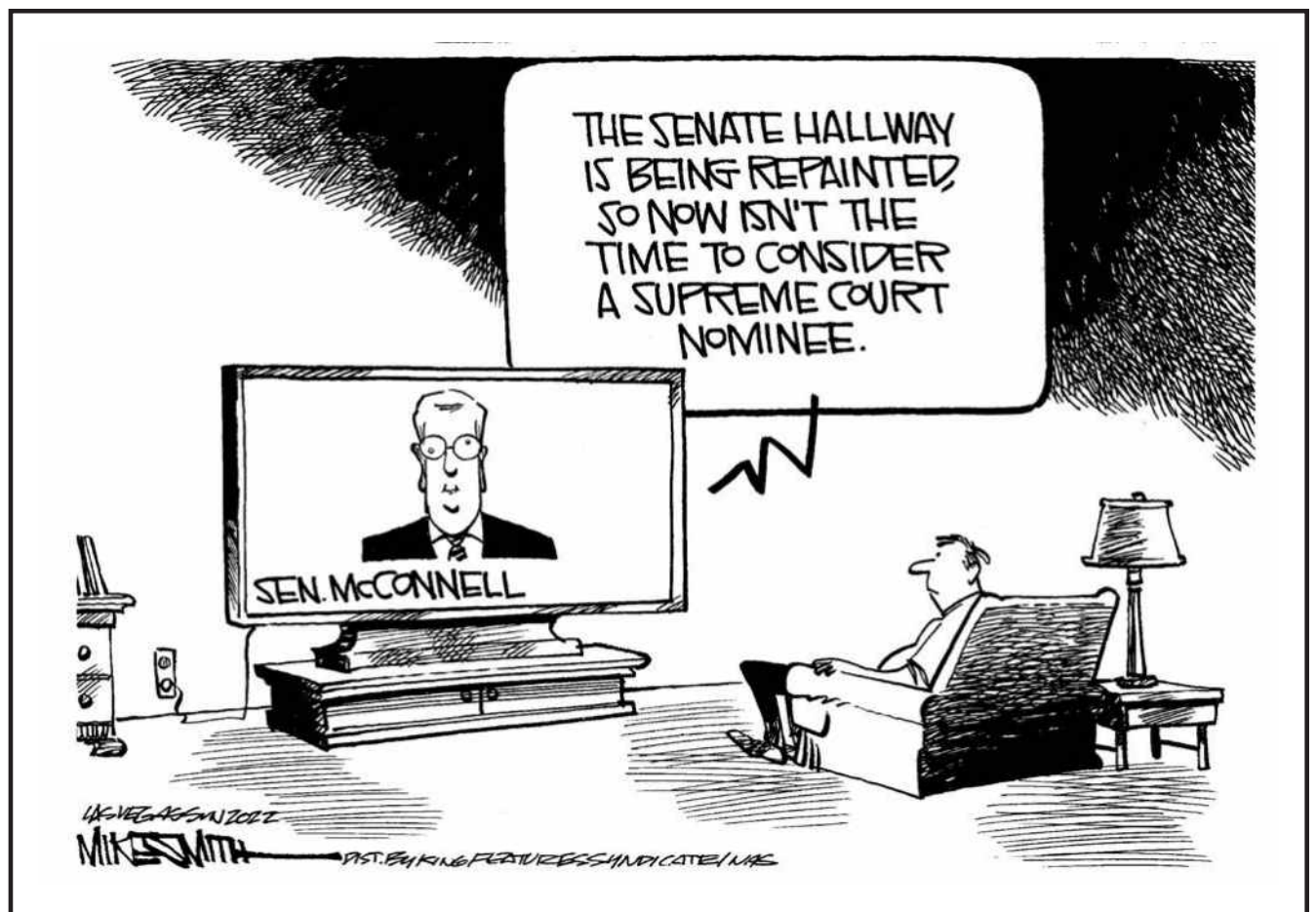
The most maddening thing is the students in these districts that remain closed—serving largely minority, low-income families—can least afford to be barred from classrooms.

Study after study has shown the negative effects of remote learning during COVID, and that impact is most pronounced with students who were already behind. Chronic absenteeism also spiked to nearly 70% in Detroit during switches to remote learning—meaning not much "learning" was going on.

One year ago, DPSCD Superintendent Nikolai Vitti told us that "online learning at scale is not how our children learn."

That's just as true today. And with more tools and money to keep kids and staff safe, schools have run out of excuses to keep children from the classroom.

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Too many of us are politics junkies

More and more of us are becoming political junkies looking for our next dopamine hit.

Dopamine, that pleasure reward in our brain, is offered as encouragement for most people when we do good things and is the reason our addictions are so hard to give up. For me, it's the chips and cookies I reach for when I'm stressed. For others it's gaining political power, opioids, alcohol, tobacco, video games, pornography, winning an argument, "being right" and more.

Every time we watch media that confirms our beliefs, we get a little bit of dopamine. That's why it feels like torture when we expose ourselves to news that doesn't conform with our beliefs. There is no pleasure hit with dopamine to support widening our views. This is why facts don't matter to people who have different beliefs. Most people don't have a good enough reason to build the stamina to withstand the feeling of torture. No, it's not really torture. It's healthy civic behavior without an obvious reward.

As a nation, we are looking for our next dopamine fix. This has led us to the doorways of at least two different realities. One leads to corruption and greed everywhere. And the other ... wait. The other reality offers corruption and greed, too. Where we diverge is over the cause of corruption and greed. There's plenty of blame to go around; the opposing party, "those people," giant corporations, and Wall Street among too many to name. And guess what? When we assign blame "over there," we get a dopamine hit. Because it's not me. Righteous or self-righteous feelings arise.

As a nation, we have short-circuited our collective chemistry. And like all addictive behavior, ruin will follow unless we stop looking for our next fix and start addressing the pain, the trauma, the reality that we are all responsible. The United States will not be healthy until we reset our national chemistry – including normal amounts of dopamine for healthy behavior.

Why have we succumbed to an addiction-fueled culture where we would sacrifice our country?

Social media algorithms have made our fixes easier to get. Count the reactions on our own posts. Over 50? Dopamine hit. Like or "angry face" another's post? Dopamine. Share a post to find your people? Dopamine and more dopamine. Video games likely deliver dopamine even faster. (I'm not a gamer, but have read some articles about it.)

At an ever increasing pace, Americans go for the dopamine fix, before anything else. It might be the news, our mobile devices and social media, it might be the next election or campaign. It might be the next battle in the Senate. Dopamine rules us as political junkies.

How might we start breaking our addiction to political junkie dopamine? We might start with a personal inventory of which behaviors lead to a healthy or unhealthy nation.

Unhealthy civic behavior:

■ Watching or listening to conflict entrepreneurs who hook us

By **DEBILYN MOLINEAUX**
The Fulcrum

Debilyn Molineaux is co-publisher of The Fulcrum and president/CEO of the Bridge Alliance Education Fund.



to enrich themselves.

■ "Stirring the pot" like a conflict entrepreneur just to get a reaction.

■ Yelling at anyone because you are frustrated. This includes ranting on social media.

■ Retweeting some outrageous misbehavior.

■ Sharing disinformation.

Healthy civic behavior:

■ Adopt a "do no harm" attitude.

■ Engage only when you can contribute in a healthy way.

■ When you are triggered, take a break and walk away. Manage yourself.

■ Amplify the positive on social media 10x more than negative or angry content. Or resolve to not air or engage in grievances on social media.

■ If pointing out injustice, ask for accountability and avoid blaming others.

■ Shun the conflict entrepreneurs and do not honor them with your time.

■ Attending local meetings with elected officials and honoring the dignity of others, regardless of your agreement or disagreement with their views.

■ Be willing to change your mind when new information warrants it.

When I'm challenged by friends who watch conflict entrepreneurs and engage in the blame game, I ask what they want to happen and how it might impact their life. I remember that most people want to live a safe and meaningful life in community with others. We want to leave the world a better place than we found it, and have some material comfort.

This is how I get my dopamine hits; through connecting around our shared humanity. Not an absence of tension, but seeing others' fears and hopes as connected to mine. I see our shared journey toward a just society.

Healthy dopamine comes from deep connection, exercising our (civic) muscles and knowing we make a positive impact on those around us.

Let's get healthy together. One day at a time.

EDITORIAL POLICY

Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

US airstrikes are recklessly legitimizing a new kind of war

By CHRISTOPHER FAULKNER, ANDREW STIGLER,
and JEFFREY ROGG
LOS ANGELES TIMES

For years, critics have sounded the alarm on targeted airstrike campaigns carried out by the U.S. Now, investigations published in December by The New York Times reveal how a secret U.S. air campaign against the Islamic State was riddled with imprecise targeting and flawed intelligence—further proof of a larger pattern of reckless strikes by the U.S. that have killed thousands of innocent civilians.

The mounting evidence contradicts the “promise of precision” championed by several presidential administrations that claimed airstrikes were an effective way to wage war against terrorism because they hit their targets while minimizing civilian casualties. The latest reports raise more questions as the Biden administration, while promising to impose targeting rules and civilian safeguards, has signaled a commitment to continue strikes by drones or piloted planes.

Over the past two decades, American presidents have increasingly relied on targeted strikes as a central feature of their counterterrorism strategy. President George W. Bush was the first to use armed drones in the aftermath of Sept. 11. President Barack Obama expanded the use of drone strikes and maintained a “kill list” of potential targets that he personally vetted.

President Donald Trump, who believed that bureaucracy reduced the speed and effectiveness of airstrikes, loosened restrictions on organizations conducting strikes and their reporting requirements. President Joe Biden’s policies, so far, appear to return to the Obama-era playbook of 2016 that established an interagency checklist to conduct a strike. Yet the August 2021 drone strike in Kabul that killed 10 civilians revealed a still deeply flawed process.

Time and again, the U.S. has stretched operational definitions to the point where any strike could loosely be categorized as “self-defense”—even those that took place tens if not hundreds of miles from the actual combat zone, or far removed in time from a possible attack.

For example, Attorney General Eric Holder of the Obama administration offered a definition of “imminent threat” that stretched common understandings of imminence:

“The evaluation of whether an individual presents an ‘imminent threat’ incorporates considerations of the relevant window of opportunity to act, the possible harm that missing the window would cause civilians, and the likelihood of heading off future

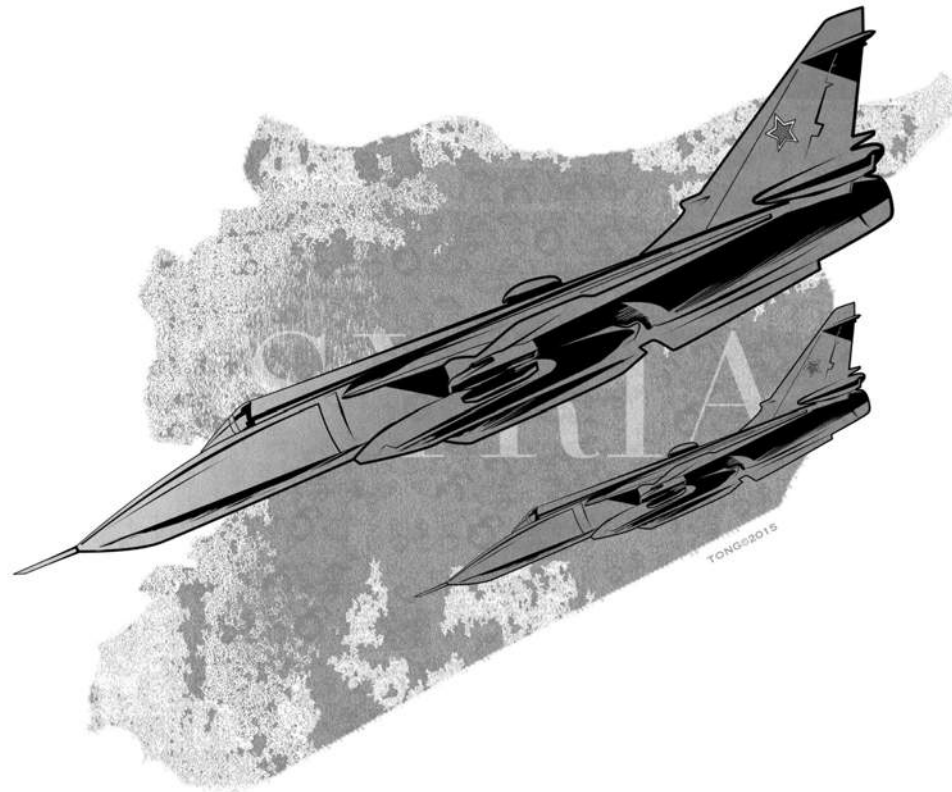
disastrous attacks on the United States.”

Holder’s standard suggests that if American forces have a fleeting chance to take a shot, the notion of imminence applies, even if a suspected attack might be months or years away.

Self-defense became the catch-all that allowed targeting teams to justify their attacks. These strikes became the norm, and internal investigations have not stopped them.

It may be true that airstrikes have weakened Islamic State, but at a terrible cost to civilians. And the militant group and terrorism remain challenges, calling into question the strategic value of airstrikes.

In addition to the civilian toll, it is difficult to ignore the prec-



edents set. Given that the U.S. has already fallen short of its own standards of transparency and care in targeted strikes, it cannot expect other states—especially less democratic ones—to be more transparent and careful in conducting similar missions.

Indeed, the U.S. has arguably fed a cycle that airstrikes were meant to stop. By pioneering and normalizing drone use and targeted killings, the U.S. has in effect greenlit a new international system of unrestrained warfare.

This approach to war is a model that other countries are now following, and not just in the narrow area of counterterrorism.

Amid conflict between Armenia and Azerbaijan over the Nagorno-Karabakh territory in the fall of 2020, Azerbaijan’s drones transformed the battlefield as infantry, tanks and air defense systems were vulnerable to drone attacks. The Ethiopian government has used drones in its ongoing civil conflict, and a growing number of states are exporting drones to other countries. Militant groups are deploying drones, including reportedly to attack U.S. troops, while Mexican cartels are using drones in turf wars.

As an unintended consequence of shortsighted American actions, the U.S. military now is at risk from the very types of technology and tactics that it developed. Meanwhile, American citizens face the bitter irony that the next 9/11 could involve the use of drones, and the whole world faces the great threat of global drone wars.

Reckless strikes undermine the United States’ claims to be different from its enemies due to the care it takes to prevent civilian casualties. It is a tall order to ask service personnel to balance competing considerations of U.S. national security, the conditions of being at war and the international humanitarian laws meant to govern armed conflict in every single decision. But moral nations must do so.

It’s time that Congress reclaimed the blank check it gave the executive branch to conduct strikes and, however difficult, repeal or modify the 2001 and 2002 Authorizations for Use of Military Force that launched too broad a mandate for counter-terrorism efforts. For its part, the executive branch needs to stop claiming self-defense as the fallback justification for any questionable strike. For too long, the military has legitimized the expanded use of these attacks—made possible by a culture of unaccountability and impunity.

Government and national security insiders were apparently comfortable accepting drone-strike civilian deaths as “the misfortunes of war.” Now, American service members and civilians face being in drone crosshairs themselves. The U.S. created and expanded this problem. It must

account for American principles and the global audience looking to the U.S. for the standard it sets. We have to remember that the foremost principle of self-defense is that you must not destroy that which you are trying to defend.

Christopher Faulkner is a postdoctoral fellow in the national security affairs department at the U.S. Naval War College, where Andrew Stigler is an associate professor in national security affairs. Jeffrey Rogg is an assistant professor in intelligence and security studies at the Citadel.

Ukraine’s fate could renew a race for weapons of mass destruction

Regret is what Ukrainian leaders must be feeling these days, as Russia amasses troops along the border. There’s nothing that says “keep your hands off my territory” like fully armed, nuclear-tipped weaponry—the sort that Kyiv surrendered shortly after the Soviet Union collapsed in 1991. Now officials have no nuclear option to deter an invasion.

The international community should be careful how it lets this play out. Nations that still have access to weapons of mass destruction will draw conclusions about whether to cling to those armaments at all costs.

It’s hard to dispute that nuclear weapons have proven to be the ultimate deterrent. They have prevented nuclear powers from consciously going to war against each other for 76 years. No nuclear weapons have been fired in hostility on other nations since the Americans bombed Hiroshima and Nagasaki at the end of World War II, in August 1945.

Nuclear weapons were once held by Ukraine, though Russia maintained full operational control of them. Kyiv gave up the nukes in a disarmament deal with Russia in the 1994 Budapest agreement, in exchange for security assurances. This essentially surrendered nuclear weapons on Ukrainian territory.

That deal lasted until the end of the 2014 Winter Olympic Games. Russian President Vladimir Putin then invaded Ukraine,

annexing Crimea and taking other areas of eastern Ukraine, despite international law and United Nations resolutions.

Belarus and Kazakhstan, like Ukraine, also gave up their nuclear arsenals, partly as a response to American desires and incentives. Minsk and Nur-Sultan got to keep their authoritarian leaders, but they surrendered their nukes to Russia for safe dismantling underwritten by the United States. Today, all three nations are either partially occupied by Moscow-backed troops or harbor Russian security forces and advisors.

Ukraine, Belarus and Kazakhstan gave up their weapons of mass destruction for what now appear to be empty promises. Belarus and Kazakhstan have leaders from the Soviet era who agree to play ball with Putin. Only Ukraine has resisted with any conviction.

If there is going to be an end to nuclear proliferation, Ukraine needs to be a success story, not a lost cause. The U.S. and Britain are now plying Ukraine with defensive weapons to give it a fighting chance at survival. Germany and others need to see this as a wake-up call. Any win for Putin in Ukraine could lead to a renewed global pursuit of nuclear weapons. Indisputable support for Ukraine could minimize that appetite.

They have an opportunity now to demonstrate that Ukraine’s resistance to Russia can be backed by international norms and allies instead.

Ukraine’s peril now may well send a message to other gov-

By MARKOS KOUNALAKIS
Los Angeles Times

Markos Kounalakis is a visiting fellow at the Hoover Institution. He is the author of Freedom Isn’t Free: The Price of World Order (Anthem Press, February 2022).








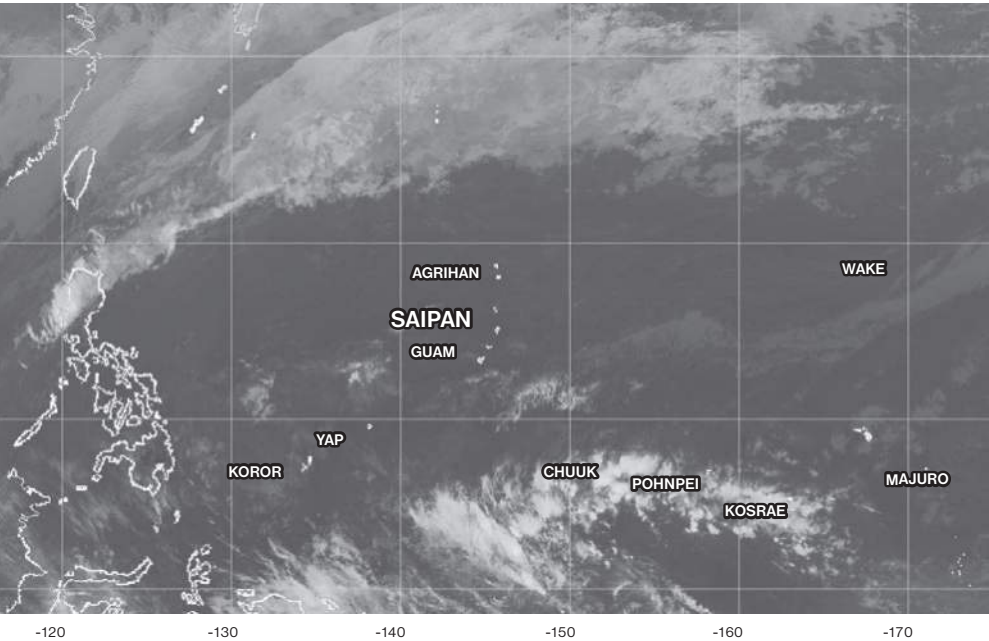
ernments that giving up nuclear weapons will reduce their national security.

What does its example show the world? Iran and North Korea are likely to deduce from Kyiv’s unilateral disarmament and current predicament that they should go full bore on their military nuclear warhead and missile programs.

The rest of the world would largely agree those pursuits need to be slowed down, if not outright stopped. In the face of Russian aggression against Ukraine, the international community’s actions, or inaction, will affect future decisions in Tehran and Pyongyang. The U.S., NATO and others must do what it takes to prove a nation like Ukraine can remain sovereign even though it gave up weapons of mass destruction.

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN									
TODAY		TUESDAY		WEDNESDAY		THURSDAY		FRIDAY	
									
Partly cloudy with isolated light showers. Northeast winds 10 to 20 mph.		Partly cloudy with isolated light showers.		Mostly cloudy with scattered showers.		Breezy. Mostly cloudy with scattered showers.		Mostly cloudy with scattered showers.	
76°	85°	75°	85	76°	85°	86°	75°	76°	85°
YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE									



PICTURE TIME: 8:09 AM, SUNDAY, JANUARY 30, 2022
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

The morning satellite and radar imagery showed a band of clouds and scattered showers over Guam and Rota with drier weather over Tinian and Saipan.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

STOP THE SPREAD

The Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. continue to encourage residents within the Marianas to practice social distancing, which means avoiding close contact with people in order to avoid catching the virus yourself and to avoid passing it on to others.

- Stay home as much as possible. Avoid unnecessary travel or public places.
- Avoid social gatherings in groups of more than 10.
- Choose drive-thru, take-out, or delivery options, or outdoor seating, if available, when dining in.
- Send only one healthy adult from the household run necessary errands, such as getting groceries or picking up medications. Leave children, elderly, and other vulnerable people at home as much as possible. When returning home from an errand, wash your hands before doing anything else.
- Older adults and people with chronic medical conditions are at higher risk of getting very sick from this illness. People at high risk should stay at home as much as possible.
- Create a household plan of action, <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prepare/checklisthousehold-ready.html>
- Ensure a 30-day supply of all medicines.

Continue good hand hygiene

- Wash your hands for at least 20 seconds with soap and water, avoid touching your face, cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue or your sleeve.
- Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer if soap and water are not readily available.

Know the signs and symptoms of COVID-19 and what to do if you become symptomatic

- Stay home when you are sick and if you recently traveled to a place with COVID-19. Self-quarantine means:
 - Choosing a room in your house that can be used to separate sick household members from others.
 - Washing your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.

onds. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.

- Avoiding touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Limiting visitors

CHCC appreciates the patience and understanding of the community at this time. To obtain general information about the CNMI COVID-19 response, contact the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force Hotline at 287-0046, 287-0489, 287-1089. These numbers are available Monday to Sunday, 7:30am - 4:30pm.

For medical information about COVID-19, reach out to the COVID-19 Infoline at the following numbers: 285-1672/1352. These numbers are available Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 4:30pm.

For mental health support and helpful tips during a crisis, call the Mental Health Support Line at 285-1856, 323-6560, 323-6561 These numbers are available Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 4:30 pm. For the 24/7 Disaster Distress Helpline, call SAMSHA at 1-800-985-5990.

For more information about DIY face coverings, visit <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/cloth-face-cover.html>

For more information about CHCC programs, follow CHCC on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter at @cnmichcc, check out our website at www.chcc.gov.mp or call us at (670) 234-8950.

For more information on the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force, visit www.governor.gov.mp and, follow @GovernorCNMI on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter.

This health advisory may be found online at <http://www.chcc.gov.mp/pressrelease.html> and at www.governor.gov.mp/covid-19.

Rumor control

During crises like this, oftentimes the spread of misinformation is just as dangerous as the virus itself. The CNMI is reminded to only share official and verified notices, press releases, and advisories from the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and CHCC.

Source: Office of the Governor

MICRONESIA			▲ ▼ °F
Guam and Rota	Partly Cloudy	29 / 24 °F	
Palau	Cloudy	29 / 26 °F	
Yap	Mostly Cloudy	29 / 26 °F	
Chuuk	Partly Cloudy	30 / 27 °F	
Pohnpei	Partly Cloudy	30 / 26 °F	
Kosrae	Partly Cloudy	30 / 27 °F	
Majuro	Partly Cloudy	29 / 27 °F	

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	06:46 AM	18:14 PM
Tuesday	06:46 AM	18:15 PM
Wednesday	06:45 AM	18:15 PM
Thursday	06:45 AM	18:15 PM
Friday	06:45 AM	18:16 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	05:42	17:11 PM	-
Tuesday	06:41	18:17 PM	-
Wednesday	07:34	19:19 PM	-
Thursday	08:21	120:17 AM	-
Friday	09:04	21:12 PM	-

AROUND THE GLOBE			▲ ▼ °F
Auckland	Partly Cloudy	24 / 19 °F	
Beijing	Sunny	3 / -6 °F	
Hong Kong	Cloudy	16 / 12 °F	
Honolulu	Mostly Cloudy	26 / 20 °F	
London	Partly Cloudy	8 / 5 °F	
Los Angeles	Mostly Cloudy	20 / 10 °F	
Manila	Partly Cloudy	31 / 24 °F	
Melbourne	Partly Cloudy	30 / 31 °F	
Miami	Mostly Sunny	21 / 18 °F	
New York	Mostly Sunny	-1 / -6 °F	
Osaka	Partly Cloudy	1 / 2 °F	
Paris	Clouds/PM Sun	8 / 3 °F	
Busan	Sunny	10 / 1 °F	
Rome	Light Rain	12 / 5 °F	
Salem	Sunny	17 / 3 °F	
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	14 / 7 °F	
Seoul	Partly Cloudy	5 / -3 °F	
Tokyo	Sunny	9 / 0 °F	
Washington, DC	AM Clouds/PM Sun	5 / -3 °F	

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY			FEET
12:48 AM	Low Tide	-0.78	
08:09 AM	High Tide	1.80	
1:19 PM	Low Tide	1.13	
6:08 PM	High Tide	1.88	

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JANUARY 23, 2022

DEPARTURES				ARRIVALS			
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)				GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN			
A117	7:20am	8:05am	2, 4, 6	UA116	5:30am	6:16am	2, 4, 6
UA117	9:50am	10:35am	1, 3, 5, 7	UA174	8:00am	8:46am	1, 3, 5, 7
GUAM-MANILA (MNL)				MANILA (MNL)-GUAM			
PR 111	6:30am	8:20am	1,3,5,7	PR110	10:15pm	4:00am+1	2,4,6,7
UA183	8:00pm	9:50pm	Daily	UA184	10:40pm	4:30am+1	2, 5
UA184				UA184	10:55pm	4:45am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)				MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN			
7C3406	3:10PM	6:55PM	Every 4 days (Jan 29-Mar 2) 3, 6	UA184/174	10:40pm	6:16am+1	5 via Guam
OZ6243	4:00PM	7:40PM		UA184/174	10:40pm	8:46am+1	2 via Guam
				UA184/174	10:55pm	6:16am+1	1, 3 via Guam
				UA184/174	10:55pm	8:46am+1	4, 6, 7 via Guam
SAIPAN-INCHEON (ICN)				INCHEON (ICN)-SAIPAN			
7C3406	3:10PM	6:55PM	Every 4 days (Jan 29-Mar 2) 3, 6	C3405	8:30AM	2:10PM	Every 4 (Jan 29-Mar 2) 6
OZ6243	4:00PM	7:40PM		OZ6233	9:00AM	2:30PM	
SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)				BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN			
BX621	3:10PM	6:30PM	6	X622	8:00AM	1:10PM	6

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); UA United Airlines • ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF MAY 18, 2021

SAIPAN TO ROTA				1204	10:00	10:15	Daily
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	1205	11:00	11:15	Daily
1301	8:30AM	9:00AM	Daily	1206	12:00	12:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1302	11:00AM	11:30AM	Daily	1207	13:00	13:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1303	1:30PM	2:00PM	Tues/Wed/Thurs/Fri Daily	1208	14:00	14:15	Daily
1304	3:30PM	4:00PM		1209	15:00	15:15	Daily
ROTA TO SAIPAN				1210	16:00	16:15	Daily
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	1211	17:00	17:15	Daily
3101	9:30AM	10:00AM	Daily	1212	17:00	17:15	Temporarily Unavailable
3102	12:00AM	12:30AM	Daily				
3103	1:30PM	3:00PM	Tues/Wed/Thurs/Fri Daily				
3104	4:30PM	5:00PM					
ROTA TO GUAM							
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY				
3401	12:15	12:45	Temporarily Unavailable				
GUAM TO ROTA							
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY				
4301	13:00	13:30	Temporarily Unavailable				
SAIPAN TO TINIAN							
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY				
1201	7:00	7:15	Temporarily Unavailable				
1202	8:00	8:15	Daily				
1203	9:00	9:15	Daily				

TINIAN TO SAIPAN							
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY				
2101	7:30	7:45	Temporarily Unavailable				
2102	8:30	8:45	Daily				
2103	9:30	9:45	Daily				
2104	10:30	10:45	Daily				
2105	11:30	11:45	Daily				
2106	12:30	12:45	Temporarily Unavailable				
2107	13:30	13:45	Temporarily Unavailable				
2108	14:30	14:45	Daily				
2109	15:30	15:45	Daily				
2110	16:30	16:45	Daily				
2111	17:30	17:45	Daily				
2112	18:30	18:45	Temporarily Unavailable				

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Saipan native achieves success from humble beginnings

By JOSEPH GANGEMI
37TH TRAINING WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

JOINT BASE SAN ANTONIO-LACKLAND, Texas—There are more trainees attending Air Force Basic Military Training than residents living in Garapan on Saipan, the hometown of Tech. Sgt. Eileen Echaluse, a Master Military Training Instructor at the 331st Training Squadron.

Although she was from the largest island of the Northern Mariana Islands, she realized there had to be a better way of life outside her tiny village.

Echaluse was a member of her high school exhibition rifle drill team and an Army JROTC cadet; as a senior, she led her company as a cadet captain. So there was little hesitation in reaching out to her regional Air Force recruiter after graduating high school. She acknowledged she had no desire to attend an island college and there were no other substantial opportunities to grow.

“The Marines tried to recruit me first and they almost got me in there!” she said. “They were ready to send me to the military entrance processing station but I just felt like the Air Force was a better option for me. I sought out the Air Force recruiter from Guam and told him I was interested. Tech. Sgt. Frank Hernandez—best recruiter ever!”

Before enlisting, Ech-



TECH. SGT. MONICA BRADEN

Tech. Sgt. Eileen Echaluse, a Master Military Training Instructor at the 331st Training Squadron, poses for a photo in front of the 331st TRS mural at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland, Texas, Jan. 13, 2022. Echaluse, a native of Saipan, is the first member of her family to enlist in the U.S. Air Force. Echulase is also the non-commissioned officer of Military Drill and Ceremonies for the 331st TRS.

aluse had zero ties to the Air Force. She didn't know how long basic military training was or that it took place in San Antonio.

“Our airmen come from all walks of life and they are seeking to make themselves a better version than the day before,” said Chief Master Sgt. Learie Gaitan, former 737th Training Group superinten-

dent. “Eileen's story is much like mine, an immigrant's journey in the Air Force and now the superintendent of Air Force Basic Training—who would have thought?”

Echaluse joined the Air Force in August 2011 and spent the first seven years of her career as a Services Craftsman. During her assignment at Fairchild AFB, Wash-

ington, she decided to apply for developmental special duty positions. Honor Guard Manager and Airman Leadership School Instructor were among her top choices. However, her final choice was to be an MTI and she was selected in March 2018. She was awarded her Master Military Training Instructor blue rope, Oct. 21, 2021.

Gaitan said that as an MTI, Echaluse is the first introduction many trainees have to the Air Force, and that she sets the standards for what an NCO should be.

“Character isn't built during a crisis, it's revealed,” Gaitan said. “Tech. Sgt. Echaluse's character is the epitome of an American airman. Her steadfast devotion to help the 737th TRG keep our training pipeline open speaks to the commitment of our Force Generators.”

“There is one thing that transcends every generation of airmen—their commitment to serve our Air Force and our beloved nation,” Gaitan said. “I am truly proud of 'Ech'—a young woman from a village in Garapan, who continues to improve not only herself, but our Air Force and Space Force.”

In 2020, as part of an on-

going contingency response to COVID-19 and to prove that locations other than JBSA-Lackland could also host BMT, Echaluse spent eight months leading trainees through BMT at Keesler AFB, Mississippi.

The MTIs tasked with training and enforcing the standards while at Keesler AFB ensured that the intensity and training did not change because of the location.

“Training was intense,” Echaluse said. “The only thing about Keesler BMT that was different was the furniture, the dormitory, and the transit to and from the mini mall. We pushed those trainees to learn quickly, perform every single day, and to become the stan-

dard for the future.”

Echaluse's time as an MTI has taught her to multi-task at an ultimate level, increase her decision-making process and quickly problem-solve. With an upcoming permanent-change of station, Echaluse will use what she has learned at her next duty station.

“This job has made me connect with some of the best people I will ever meet and get to work with,” she said, who will be returning to her force support career field come March 2022. “This is the best job in the Air Force and being in charge of drill and ceremonies for the 331st Training Squadron is the cherry on top of it all. I would do it again.”



JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT MVA IS HIRING!!!

JVA #	VACANT POSITION	OPENING DATE 1/20/22	CLOSING DATE 2/3/22
JVA#22-001:	ACCOUNTANT IV (SAIPAN)		
JVA#22-002:	TRADES TECHNICIAN I (ROTA)		
JVA#22-003:	ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT/RECEPTIONIST (SAIPAN)		
JVA#22-004:	ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT (SAIPAN)		

LOCATION: MARIANAS VISITORS AUTHORITY

INTERESTED PERSONS MAY CONTACT THE MARIANAS VISITORS
AUTHORITY OFFICE AT (670) 664-3200/01 OR VISIT
WWW.MYMARIANAS.COM FOR MORE DETAILS.

Torres joins excitement for SCA, clarifies meeting details

By JOSHUA SANTOS
joshua_santos@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres' meeting last week with Saipan Cares for Animals director Beth Pliscou was “extremely productive, and many of SCA's concerns were clarified or resolved,” according to a news release today from the Office of the Governor.

The news release stated that Torres will continue to support SCA, but made clear that he has not and will not overstep the Commonwealth Zoning Board's authority in SCA's application processes.

The news release expressed Torres' continued support for SCA, but also clarified details about Torres' Jan. 25 meeting with Pliscou and some agency officials.

The release first noted that “neither the Commonwealth Zoning Board nor a representative from the Zoning Office” was present at the Jan. 25 meeting. However, the office said that Torres met with Zoning's chairman and Zoning's administrator on Jan. 24 to get more information on SCA's situation.

Instead, present at Torres' Jan. 25 meeting with Pliscou

were Department of Lands and Natural Resources Secretary Anthony T. Benavente and Division of Fish and Wildlife director Manuel M. Pangelinan.

Saipan Tribune mistakenly reported last week that “an official from the Commonwealth Zoning Board” was at the Jan. 25 meeting with Torres, Pliscou, and DFW's Pangelinan.

Pliscou told *Saipan Tribune* last week that, according to DFW, one concern the agency had with SCA's future As Lito property was the presence of endangered birds on the land. The governor's office confirmed these details.

“Governor Torres met with Beth Pliscou to offer assistance in addressing issues concerning SCA's permitting application for its new property in As Lito to the Division of Fish and Wildlife and the mitigation requirements relating to the presence of endangered bird species on the property,” states the press release.

The Office of the Governor said that Torres' Jan. 25 meeting with Pliscou, Benavente, and Pangelinan “was extremely productive, and many of SCA's concerns were clarified or resolved. Torres, however,

has not and will not overstep Zoning's authority for SCA's application processes, and has full faith and confidence in the Zoning Board's ability to carry out its mandates.”

“The Zoning Board is doing the best they can. I understand and share the community's sentiments regarding our need to provide access to professional animal care in the Commonwealth, however, we must ensure that all laws and regulations are followed in the process,” said Torres.

Torres said that Pliscou also understands that Zoning is doing the best it can, and that SCA and Pliscou are grateful to the Zoning Board for approving previous extension requests at SCA's current As Gonno facility.

Torres added that he too is excited for SCA's move to its future As Lito property, where the organization “will have more space to conduct their important services and do so within the parameters of all applicable laws and regulations.”

“We continue to offer SCA our full support and thank them for their continued service to our animal population,” said Torres.



Commonwealth Utilities Corporation



INVITATION FOR BIDS CUC-IFB-22-010

PROVISION OF OPERATIONS, MAINTENANCE, AND MANAGEMENT SERVICES FOR THE POWER PLANT AND DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM ON THE ISLAND OF TINIAN

The Office of the Executive Director for the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed bids for the provision of operations, maintenance, and management services for the Power Plant and Distribution System on the Island of Tinian, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Prospective Bidders must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The Bid Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of **\$200.00** (non-refundable) for one IFB package set.

One (1) original and Five (5) hard copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked “CUC-IFB-22-010, Operations, Maintenance, and Management Services for The Power Plant and Distribution System on the island of Tinian” to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, **no later than 10:00 AM (ChST) on February 22, 2022** at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Bids mailed via postal or courier service must be received on or before due date and time or post-marked before submission deadline. Late submissions and conditional offers will not be considered.

A Payment Bond of one hundred (100%) percent and a Performance Bond of one hundred (100%) percent of the total bid price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful bidders. The Payment and Performance bond must be executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety or other surety acceptable to the Attorney General. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

All insurers' questions, concerns and qualification shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). Bidders are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.

All bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid or supply under the contract. The IFB does not commit CUC to award a contract, to pay any cost incurred in the preparation of the bid under this request, or to procure or contract for goods. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed as per the CUC Procurement Regulations.

All bidders are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from registered Proponents and must be submitted in writing **no later than 10:00 AM (ChST) on February 1, 2022**, to Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrator, via email manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Marcela Tenorio at marcela.tenorio@cucgov.org, and Christie Sablan at christie.sablan@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids for any reason and waive any defects in the said bids, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All bids submitted shall become the property of CUC.

GARY P. CAMACHO
Executive Director

MANNY BOYER SABLAN
Purchasing Administrator

Business

New services for United's Guam-Honolulu travelers



UNITED

United Premium Plus customers can expect their onboard experience to be enhanced and enjoy a more spacious seat equipped with a leg rest with extra legroom, elbow room, and greater reclining capability.

GUAM—United Airlines had announced exciting updates to its Guam-Honolulu service: the introduction of United Premium Plus, the airline's premium economy experience, and the return of its complimentary Economy Class inflight meal service, both which became effective last Jan. 4, 2022.

Sam Shinozaki,

United's managing director of Airport Operations for Asia-Pacific said, "Introducing both United Premium Plus and the complimentary Economy Class meal service gives our customers in Guam more perks when traveling to Honolulu on United. Our customers are at the core of everything we do, and we hope the addition of these amenities will make their travels even more

enjoyable."

United Premium Plus is United's premium economy experience and is now available on flights between Guam and Honolulu. Customers traveling in United Premium Plus will enjoy an elevated travel experience: Premier Access check-in, complimentary standard checked bags, and priority boarding.

From Guam to Honolulu, customers can now select from four classes of service aboard the 350-seat Boeing 777-300ER with all aisle-access seats in United Business (60 seats), United Premium Plus (24 seats), United Economy Plus (62 seats), and United Economy (204 seats).

United Premium Plus customers can expect their onboard experience to be enhanced and enjoy a more spacious seat

equipped with a leg rest with extra legroom, elbow room, and greater reclining capability. A welcome meal, mid-flight snacks, and a pre-arrival dining service complement the travel experience. Beer, wine, liquor, and non-alcoholic beverages will also be complimentary in United Premium Plus. Seats are equipped with individual power and USB outlets, dedicated overhead bins, and extra storage for customers to keep devices at hand throughout their entire flight.

United is also reintroducing the complimentary inflight meal service in the Economy cabin. United offers a continental breakfast on flights from Guam to Honolulu and a light lunch from Honolulu to Guam.

Customers can book their flights through united.com, local travel agents, or United's City Ticket Office in Tiyan. (PR)

the famed Tropicana Las Vegas could be demolished or renovated, according to the director of the company offering to buy out Rhode Island-based casino owner Bally's Corp. Bally's Corp. is buying the nearly 1,500-room resort—a Rat Pack-era attraction once known for its mob ties.

FAA clears Verizon and AT&T to turn on more 5G cell towers

Federal safety regulators say they have cleared the way for Verizon and AT&T to power up more towers for new 5G service without causing radio interference with airplanes. The Federal Aviation

Administration said Friday that it took the steps after receiving details from the telecommunications companies about the location of wireless transmitters. The FAA's move will let the companies activate 5G cell towers closer to airports without hindering the ability of planes to land during poor weather. Verizon and AT&T declined to comment. Nick Ludlum, a spokesman for the telecommunications trade group CTIA, called it a "positive development that highlights the considerable progress the wireless industry, aviation industry, FAA and FCC are making to ensure robust 5G service and safe flights."

Nation

Blizzard buffets US East Coast with deep snow, winds, floods

BOSTON (AP)—A nor'easter with hurricane-force wind gusts battered much of the East Coast on Saturday, flinging heavy snow that made travel treacherous or impossible, flooding coastlines, and threatening to leave bitter cold in its wake.

The storm thrashed parts of 10 states, with blizzard warnings that stretched from Virginia to Maine. Philadelphia and New York saw plenty of wind and snow, but Boston was in the cross-hairs. The city tied its record for biggest single-day snowfall, with 23.6 inches (60 centimeters), the National Weather Service said.

Winds gusted as high as 83 mph (134 kph) on Cape Cod in Massachusetts. Southwest of Boston, the town of Sharon, Massachusetts, had received more than 30 inches (76 centimeters) of snow by Saturday night, while Islip, New York, and Warren, Rhode Island, both saw more than 24 inches (61 centimeters).

The wind scoured the ground bare in some spots and piled the snow into huge drifts in others.

Forecasters watched closely for new snowfall records, especially in Boston. The Boston area's modern

snowfall record for a winter storm is 27.6 inches (70 centimeters), set in 2003.

New York City and Philadelphia were far from setting all-time records but still saw significant snowfall, with at least 7.5 inches (19 centimeters) in New York's Central Park and at the Philadelphia airport.

Many flights at airports serving New York, Boston and Philadelphia were canceled Saturday, according to FlightAware. More than 4,500 flights were canceled across the U.S., though airports in the Northeast didn't report evidence of mass strandings, given that the storm was anticipated and many airlines called off flights in advance.

Amtrak canceled all its high-speed Acela trains on the busy Boston-to-Washington corridor and canceled or limited other service.

In Boston, Dominic Torre was out driving his snow dump truck since the storm began overnight, picking up loads of plowed snow from the streets of and dumping it in unused parking lots known as "snow farms." It was about time for such a big storm, he said.

"You know, we were overdue," he said. "It's pretty hairy, you know, a

lot of snow. A lot of snow, a lot of trips, a lot of loads. And it ain't over yet. It ain't done yet."

Videos on social media showed wind and waves battering North Weymouth, south of Boston, flooding streets with a slurry of frigid water. Other videos showed a street underwater on Nantucket and waves crashing against the windows of a building in Plymouth.

Over 120,000 homes and businesses lost power in Massachusetts, with failures mounting. No other states reported widespread outages.

Climate change, particularly the warming ocean, probably influenced the strength of the storm, atmospheric researchers said.

Much warmer ocean waters "are certainly playing a role in the strengthening of the storm system and increased moisture available for the storm," said University of Oklahoma meteorology professor Jason Furtado. "But it isn't the only thing."

The storm had two saving graces: Dry snow less capable of snapping trees and tearing down power lines, and its timing on a weekend, when schools were closed and few people were commuting.

ACROSS THE NATION

Carbon monoxide poisoning at hotel; 7 in critical condition

MARYSVILLE, Ohio (AP)—Seven people were hospitalized in critical condition Saturday after suffering from carbon monoxide poisoning at a Hampton Inn in Ohio, officials said. A total of nine people were taken to local hospitals, according to The Columbus Dispatch. Marysville Fire Chief Jay Riley told the newspaper that the source of the carbon monoxide was unclear but everyone who was hospitalized had been in the hotel's pool area. Riley said the victims included both children and adults. He did not provide exact ages. Authorities said they received a 911 call Saturday evening about a 2-year-old girl who had either fallen into the pool or was found in the pool unconscious at the Hampton Inn in Marysville. More 911 calls soon followed about unconscious people or others who reported symptoms such as dizziness and a burning in the

throat, Marysville Police Chief Tony Brooks said.

3 children killed in house fire in rural Nebraska

PIERCE, Neb. (AP)—Three children died Saturday when a home caught fire in a rural area of northern Nebraska. The fire broke out just after 3:30 a.m. in the town of Pierce. Three people got out, but a 17-year-old, 15-year-old and 12-year-old were unable to escape. They were pronounced dead at the scene, Nebraska State Fire Marshal Agency Chief Investigator Adam Matzner said in a news release. Their names were not released. Two people were uninjured. One person was treated at a hospital and released. Matzner said the fire was accidental and caused by a wood-burning stove. Autopsies are planned for the three victims.

Investigators vow to put collapsed bridge under 'microscope'

PITTSBURGH (AP)—Federal investigators on Saturday vowed to put a collapsed bridge in a Pittsburgh park "under a microscope"

as they examine evidence, including video from a municipal bus that plummeted along the span, prompting rescuers to rappel down a ravine and form a human chain to reach a few occupants. Five vehicles were on the bridge along with the bus at the time of Friday's predawn collapse in Frick Park. City officials said 10 people, including some first responders, were evaluated and treated for minor injuries, and three people were taken to local hospitals with injuries that were not life-threatening. The collapse ruptured gas lines that ran along the bridge, causing a large gas leak and the subsequent evacuation of several families from their homes. Jennifer Homendy, chair of the National Transportation Safety Board, said Saturday evening that investigators over the coming weeks would "put this bridge under a microscope," looking at its "entire history" from design and construction, to maintenance and repair and all work up until the day of the collapse.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Some Vegas Strip casinos to get new facades, familiar names

LAS VEGAS (AP)—Some shuffling among owners could result in rebranding, demolition, reconstruction and the addition of familiar names at some of the Las Vegas Strip's most iconic properties. Caesars Entertainment Inc., owner of the venerable Bally's Las Vegas, announced this week that it plans to rename its heart-of-the-Strip towers the Horseshoe Las Vegas, drawing on a name made famous at a downtown gambling hall that was the original home of the World Series of Poker. A few blocks down Las Vegas Boulevard,

World

North Korea tests longest-range missile since 2017

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—North Korea on Sunday fired what appeared to be the most powerful missile it has tested since U.S. President Joe Biden took office, possibly breaching a self-imposed suspension on the testing of longer-range weapons as it revives its old playbook in brinkmanship to wrest concessions from Washington and neighbors amid a prolonged stalemate in diplomacy.

The Japanese and South

Korean militaries said the missile was launched on a lofted trajectory, apparently to avoid the territorial spaces of neighbors, and reached a maximum altitude of 2,000 kilometers (1,242 miles) and traveled 800 kilometers (497 miles) before landing in the sea.

The flight details suggest the North tested its longest-range ballistic missile since 2017, when it twice flew intermediate-range ballistic mis-

siles over Japan and separately flight-tested three intercontinental-range ballistic missiles that demonstrated the potential range to reach deep into the American homeland.

Sunday's test was the North's 7th round of weapons launches this month. The unusually fast pace of tests indicates North Korea's intent to pressure the Biden administration over long-stalled nuclear negotiations as pandemic-related difficulties unleash further shock on an economy broken by decades of misman-

agement and crippling U.S.-led sanctions over its nuclear weapons program.

South Korean President Moon Jae-in called an emergency National Security Council meeting where he described the test as a possible "midrange ballistic missile launch" that brought North Korea to the brink of breaking its 2018 suspension in the testing of nuclear devices and longer-range ballistic missiles.

Japanese Defense Minister Nobuo Kishi told reporters it was clear that the missile was

the longest-range weapon the North has tested since launching its Hwasong-15 ICBM in November 2017.

The launch came after North Korean leader Kim Jong Un chaired a ruling party meeting on Jan. 20 where senior party members made a veiled threat to lift the moratorium, citing what they perceived as U.S. hostility and threats. Kim in April 2018 declared that "no nuclear test and intermediate-range and inter-continental ballistic rocket test-fire" were necessary for the North any

longer as he pursued diplomacy with then-U.S. President Donald Trump in an attempt to leverage his nukes for badly needed economic benefits.

The latest missile's flight details suggest that North Korea's moratorium is already broken, said Lee Choon Geun, a missile expert and honorary research fellow at South Korea's Science and Technology Policy Institute. He said the data suggests that the North tested an intermediate-range ballistic missile or possibly even a weapon approaching ICBM capacities.

UN: 2,000 children recruited by Yemen's rebels died fighting

UNITED NATIONS (AP)—U.N. experts said in a new report that nearly 2,000 children recruited by Yemen's Houthi rebels died on the battlefield between January 2020 and May 2021, and the Iranian-backed rebels continue to hold camps and courses encouraging youngsters to fight.

In the report to the U.N. Security Council circulated Saturday, the experts said they investigated some summer camps in schools and a mosque where the Houthis

disseminated their ideology and sought to recruit children fight in the seven-year war with Yemen's internationally recognized government, which is backed by a Saudi-led coalition.

"The children are instructed to shout the Houthi slogan 'death to America, death to Israel, curse the Jews, victory to Islam,'" the four-member panel of experts said. "In one camp, children as young as 7 years of age were taught to clean weapons and evade rockets."

Congo court sentences dozens to death over UN expert murders

KINSHASA, Congo (AP)—A military court in Congo has condemned about 50 people to death nearly five years after the murders of United Nations investigators Michael Sharp and Zaida Catalan in central Congo's Kasai region. The President of the Kasai Occidental Military Court, Brig. Gen. Jean-Paulin Ntshayokolo said Saturday that of the 54 defendants, one officer is sen-

tenced to 10 years for violating orders and two others were acquitted. Those sentenced to death will serve out life sentences, as Congo has observed a moratorium on the death penalty since 2003.

No peace in Myanmar 1 year after military takeover

BANGKOK (AP)—The army takeover in Myanmar a year ago that ousted Aung San Suu Kyi not only unexpectedly aborted the coun-

try's fledgling return to democracy. It also brought a surprising level of popular resistance, which has blossomed into a low-level but persistent insurgency. Senior Gen. Min Aung Hlaing, the commander of Myanmar's military—known as the Tatmadaw—seized power on the morning of Feb. 1, 2021, arresting Suu Kyi and top members of her government and ruling National League for Democracy party, which won a landslide election vic-

tory in November 2020. The military's use of deadly force to hold on to power has escalated conflict with its civilian opponents to the point that some experts describe the country as being in a state of civil war. The costs have been high, with some 1,500 people killed by the security forces, almost 8,800 detained, an unknown number tortured and disappeared, and more than 300,000 displaced as the military razes villages to root out resistance.

GOING HOME



† Elmo Antonio Untalan Hofschneider
Lovingly known as "Anthony" or "Ton"
born on August 17, 1969, was called home by our Heavenly Father on January 16, 2022, at the age of 52.

Sail to his new life in paradise, he is reunited and greeted by his:
Parents: †Edward Villagomez and †Marcela Untalan Hofschneider
Brother: †James Untalan
Sister: †Matilde Untalan Hofschneider
Brother-in-law: †Joaquin Aldan Sanchez
Parents-in-law: †Josefino and †Virginia Medina
Paternal grandparents: †Henry Gikabai and †Ana Villagomez Hofschneider
Maternal grandparents: †Marcus Adriano and †Matilde Sablan Untalan †Anastasia Ruetinngin
Nephew: †Jiovanni Jude S. Hofschneider

†Elmo Antonio was happily married to his Loving wife, Vina Medina Hofschneider, and were blessed with their children and grandchild: Edward Joseph Medina Hofschneider; Elmo Anthony Medina and Anidia J. Hofschneider (Alaira Ehlani); Eric Daniel Medina Hofschneider; Elton Vien Medina Hofschneider and Melissa Santos; Edric Marco Medina Hofschneider, Elijah Medina Hofschneider

He will be truly missed by his Brothers, Sisters, and Families:
Michaela Untalan Sanchez and family; **Jose & Maria** Liberty P. Untalan and family; **Marcus** Untalan and Lou Connie B. Manglona and family; **Lavian K.** Untalan and family; **Henry** Untalan Hofschneider and Bernadette S. Palacios and family; **Elsie** Untalan Hofschneider; **Elena** Untalan Maoile and Joseph Howard and family


Sister-in-law/Spouse: Josefina M. and Sidney Biton and family

He will also be missed by his numerous aunts, uncles, cousins, nieces, nephews, families & friends.

Our Beloved †Elmo Antonio will be with us for the last time on Monday, February 7, 2022, beginning at 7:00 am, where he will be escorted from the Tinian Health Center Morgue to the San Jose Church for Responso, Holy Rosary and public visitation. Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 11:00 am with the Rite of Committal at the San Jose Public Cemetery where he will be laid to peaceful rest.

Vina Medina Hofschneider, children and families

DEATH & FUNERAL ANNOUNCEMENT



† FRANCISCO (Paco/Tik) AGUON CAMACHO

In his new life he joins:
Wife: †Isabel Villagomez Camacho (Beck Kiyu)

Parents: †Vidal Palacios and †Maria Aguon Camacho
Parents in law: †Jose Sema Villagomez and †Antonia Pangelinan Tenorio Villagomez
Grandson: †Dre Devin Hernandez Camacho

His memory forever lives in the hearts of his:
Brothers: Juan and †Emilia Camacho and Family Roman and Beverly M. Camacho and Family

Children/Grandchildren/Great-Grandchildren:
 Frank and Emy Camacho (Frankeli, Mario/Humpylna and Eligiah)
 Jacqueline and Nicolas Leon Guerrero (Joseph II/Therese and Children, Gregory/Tiana and Children, Brandon/Kaitleen and son, Christopher/Tiara, Vicente, Samantha/Shawn and Children, Sandy/Justin and Children, Kenneth/Colleen and Children, Ariel/Tanico and children)
 Michael and Lillian Camacho (Brittany, Colette and Michael)
 Vidal and Petelyn Camacho (Vidal, Irie and Aisha)
 Esther and Robert Suzuki (Robert Jr., Anthony/Crystal and Kohlin, Angelynn/Joel and Goralynn)
 Pauline and Pedro Jeffrey Roligat (Nikki: Zion and Leisabwepi, Nathan, Ethan, Lupe/Myron and children), John Paul and Theresa Camacho (Troy, Kyle, Elyssa, Cheyenne, Jessarae and Daniel)
 Frances and Randy Sablan (Gabriella, Raelene, Drake and Zackary)

Brothers, Sisters & In-laws:
 †Herbert "Michang" and †Ignacia "Achalang" San Nicolas and Family
 †Gregoria and †Juan Cabrera and Family
 †Bishop Emeritus Thomas A. Camacho
 †Vicenta Aguon Camacho
 †Antonio Aguon Camacho and Family

Brothers, Sisters & in-laws:
 †Remedio Camacho and Family, †Daniel and Rosario Villagomez and Family, †Roman Tenorio Villagomez and Cecilia Muna Villagomez and Family, †Antonio and †Remedio Villagomez and Family, †Jesus and †Vicenta Villagomez and Family, †Joaquin and †Remedio Villagomez and Family, †Jose Tenorio Villagomez and Magdalena Jones Villagomez and Family, Frances and Ron Sintkowski and Family

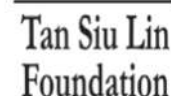
Mass is being offered at San Jose Church at 6:00pm followed by Rosary daily. On Sunday, January 30, 2022 Mass will be at 9am and Rosary will be at 7:00pm

Our Dad †Francisco will be with us for the last time on Wednesday, February 02, 2022 at Our Lady of Mount Carmel Cathedral beginning at 8:30AM For Responso Service and public visitation. Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 10:30AM.

Your thoughts, Prayers and Words of Comfort are Sincerely Appreciated.
 From his brothers Juan and Roman Camacho and his Children/Grandchildren/Great-grand children

Health & Wellness

This advertorial
is sponsored by



By CYNTHIA WEISS
MAYO CLINIC NEWS NETWORK

DEAR MAYO CLINIC: My sister tested positive for COVID-19 with an at-home test and has not been to her doctor because her symptoms are mild—just some congestion and a slight cough. Although the new omicron variant of COVID-19 seems less severe, does she need to seek medical care? How should she manage the infection at home?

ANSWER: You are correct that the new omicron variant of COVID-19 seems to be less severe for many people. Due to the nature of this variant and specific symptoms, if you or a loved one tests positive for COVID-19, it may not be necessary to seek medical care. Young, otherwise healthy people without other medical conditions who are experiencing mild symptoms can recover at home.

Most cases of COVID-19 resolve without needing any kind of prescription medication or advanced care. This is particularly true for those who have been vaccinated for COVID-19 and even more so for people who also have received their booster vaccination.

When it comes to at-home care for mild COVID-19 symptoms, people should focus on three simple things:

- Get rest.
- Stay well-hydrated.
- Possibly take over-the-counter medications for a fever.

It is also important that if you test positive, you must isolate at home for at least five days. Given the rapid transmission rates of omicron, no matter how mild your symptoms, you can still pass the infection onto others in the same household. If you need to leave your home after that, you should wear a tight-fitting mask anyplace you go for the next five days. That includes continuing to mask when around your household members. For a full 10 days, you should not go anyplace where you cannot remain masked at all times, like a restaurant.

It is important to monitor yourself to make sure mild symptoms don't progress into ones that may require medical attention. Symptoms that you should be mindful of include:

- Trouble breathing.
- Chest pain, or pressure in the chest.
- Getting confused or lightheaded, or feeling like you might pass out.
- You look pale or even bluish, especially your lips or fingertips, which can be a sign that you need more oxygen and need to seek medical care immediately.

Regardless of symptoms, certain populations of people

will need to contact their health care provider if they test positive for COVID-19. That's because they may be eligible for prescription treatment.

You need to get in touch with your care team if you have lung disease or heart disease; have chronic kidney disease and are on dialysis; have a compromised immune system; or take medications that suppress your immune system, such as for cancer treatment, after a transplant or for treatment of an autoimmune disease.

If you took an at-home test and tested positive, your health care provider may not know you have COVID-19. You need to let your health care provider know as soon as possible about your results and your symptoms.

If you are eligible for a prescription treatment, such as monoclonal antibody therapy or antiviral medication, your health care provider would be able to arrange that for you.

MAYO CLINIC Q&A: Tips for coping with COVID-19 at home



(SCOTT OLSON/GETTY IMAGES/TNS)

A single at-home COVID-19 test by Quidel sits on a drugstore shelf on Sept. 14, 2021 in Chicago, Illinois.

What is a Pap smear, and who needs one?

By LAUREL KELLY
MAYO CLINIC NEWS NETWORK

January is Cervical Health Awareness Month, which makes this a good time to learn about Pap smears.

A Pap smear, also called a Pap test, is a routine screening test for early diagnosis of cervical cancer. A Pap smear also can detect changes in cervical cells that suggest cancer may develop in the future.

Early stage cervical cancer generally produces no signs or symptoms, so early diagnosis is important. There is a greater chance for a cure when cervical cancer is detected early, so it's important that women have

Pap smears as part of their regular health care.

During a Pap test, your health care provider will gently insert an instrument called a speculum into your vagina. The speculum holds the walls of your vagina apart so your health care provider can see your cervix. Inserting the speculum may cause a sensation of pressure in your pelvic area. Then your health care provider will take samples of your cervical cells using a soft brush and a flat scraping device called a spatula. This usually doesn't hurt.

The Pap smear usually is performed in conjunction with a pelvic exam. In general, health care providers

recommend Pap testing beginning at 21 and repeating the test every three years until 65. Women 30 and older can consider Pap testing every five years if the procedure is combined with testing for HPV, or they might consider HPV testing instead of the Pap test.

Your health care provider may recommend more frequent Pap smears, regardless of your age, if you have these risk factors:

- A diagnosis of cervical cancer or a Pap smear that showed precancerous cells.
- Exposure to the miscarriage prevention drug diethylstilbestrol, or DES, before birth.
- HIV infection.

■ A weakened immune system due to organ transplant, chemotherapy or chronic corticosteroid use.

■ A history of smoking.

If you've had surgery to remove all or part of your uterus—a total or partial hysterectomy—you may or may not continue to need to continue with routine Pap tests. Many factors will influence your health care provider's recommendation for your need to continue with routine Pap tests after a hysterectomy, including your age, the type of surgery you had and the reason for it, and your family history—particularly whether your mother took the drug diethylstilbestrol while she was pregnant with you.

Healthy Living

Eat veggies ...

Researchers have found that middle aged people who ate a vegetable rich diet had lower blood pressure than those who ate fewer vegetables.

... lower your blood pressure

- Most vegetables are naturally low in calories and sodium, high in fiber
- Many contain heart-healthy antioxidants

Source: Archives of Internal Medicine, TNS Photo Service

How to be healthier in 2022

By ALEX OSIADACZ
MAYO CLINIC NEWS NETWORK

As the new year rolls on, sticking to a healthy lifestyle doesn't hinge only on days spent at the gym.

With goals in mind and a checkup with your health care provider, 2022 could be one of the best years for your mind and body.

Is your health a priority in the new year?

Dr. Stephen McMullan, a Mayo Clinic family medicine physician, says the best first step is to establish care.

"I always recommend if you don't have a medical provider, make sure you go either on-

line or make some phone calls and look around, maybe ask friends and family who they see. Find someone who you can connect with and trust," says Dr. McMullan.

Regular health maintenance visits are important to get a good picture of what's happening with a patient.

"We'll recommend things like cancer screenings. We will recommend vaccines. We can update lab work to make sure we're screening for certain types of diseases like diabetes and high cholesterol. Really trying to prevent issues down the road," says Dr. McMullan.

When it comes to healthy habits, Dr. McMullan explains



PRATCHAYA LEELAPATCHAYANONT/DREAMSTIME/TNS

As the new year rolls on, sticking to a healthy lifestyle doesn't hinge only on days spent at the gym.

that several areas should be addressed. Start with seven to nine hours of sleep per night; a nutritious diet with fruits, vegetables and lean proteins; daily physical activity; and less stress.

"Stress can have a profound unhealthy effect on the body. So we try to advise people that if you're in a stressful situation or there are stressors, let's talk about ways to cope with those," says Dr. McMullan.

Life & Style

Willow Biden joins long and varied line of White House pets

NEW YORK (AP)—Welcome, Willow, to a long line of presidential pets.

President Joe Biden and first lady Jill Biden have added a green-eyed tabby from Pennsylvania to the White House family, the first feline tenant since President George W. Bush's controversially named cat India.

The 2-year-old Willow joins Commander, a recently acquired German shepherd puppy who follows two other German shepherds, Champ and Major. Champ died in June at age 13, while Major, a 3-year-old rescue, was sent off to a quieter life after behaving aggressively.

With Presidents James K. Polk and Donald Trump among the no-pets exceptions, animals have a long history in the White House.

Highlights of past presidential pets:

PRESIDENTS AND PONIES

There have been a few ponies and many horses, including the very first pets to occupy the White House with President John Adams and first lady Abigail. They had horses named

Cleopatra and Caesar, along with dogs Juno and Satan.

Caroline Kennedy, the daughter of John F. Kennedy, and her friends famously enjoyed riding her pony Macaroni on the South Lawn, along with another one named Tex, but Macaroni was usually stabled at the Kennedy family home in Virginia.

The White House once had stables of its own used by many presidents, the last being Theodore Roosevelt. The Rough Rider and ex-ranch owner loved horses. Sons Quentin and Kermit once smuggled their pony Algonquin onto the second floor of the White House in an elevator to visit a sick sibling, said Andrew Hager, a presidential pet historian from the unofficial online Presidential Pet Museum.

The White House stables were damaged in a fire in 1864, killing several horses and ponies of Abraham Lincoln and his children. One account has a distraught Lincoln trying in vain to save son Tad's pet pony.

THE CAT PEOPLE

While dogs have been more frequent residents, there have



(AP PHOTO/MARCY NIGHSWANDER, FILE)

President Bill Clinton's cat Socks peers over the podium in the White House briefing room in Washington on March 19, 1994. President Joe Biden and first lady Jill Biden have added a green-eyed tabby from Pennsylvania to the White House family. She's the first feline tenant since President George W. Bush's controversially named cat India. With Presidents James K. Polk and Donald Trump among notable, no-pets exceptions, animals have a long history in the White House.

been plenty of cat people in the White House: The Clintons, the Carters and the Fords to name a few.

It was the Bushes' cat India, however, who sparked protests in 2004 among nationalists in

Kerala, India's southernmost state. They considered the name an insult.

Lincoln and first lady Mary Todd also kept cats, Hager said. "There's a story that he would feed one of his cats from

the plates in the White House dining room, then his wife objected and he said something like, 'Well, if these plates were good enough for James Buchanan, they're good enough for the cat,'" he said.

Caroline Kennedy briefly had a cat, Tom Kitten (aka Tom Terrific) but he made her allergy-prone dad sneeze and was sent off to live with a staffer. The media was invited to take photos of Tom Kitten upon his arrival in 1961. He lasted only a few weeks at the White House.

William McKinley had two Angora kittens named Valeriano Weyler and Enrique DeLome, along with roosters and a parrot he named Washington Post, Hager said.

THE DOG PEOPLE

There have been oh so many dogs. The Obama's Bo, a male Portuguese water dog, joined the family at the White House in April 2009. Sunny, a female of the same breed, came along in August 2013.

Among President John Tyler's pets were a pair of "gentle giant" Irish wolfhounds. He gave them to his second wife, Julia, as a gift. Theodore Roosevelt, an avid animal lover, had a pack of dogs, snakes, guinea pigs and, by one account, a one-legged rooster.

Kennedy was gifted the mixed-breed Pushinka by Soviet Premier Nikita Khrushchev.

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

Jussie Smollett to be sentenced March 10 for lying to police

CHICAGO (AP)—Jussie Smollett, who was convicted last month for lying to police about a racist, homophobic attack that authorities said he staged, will return to court for sentencing March 10, a judge said Thursday. Cook County

Judge James Linn set the sentencing date in Chicago for the former "Empire" actor, who told the judge he was in New York, during a hearing on Zoom. Smollett was found guilty by a jury Dec. 9 of five felony counts of disorderly conduct under a subsection of the law that prohibits making false reports to police. He was

acquitted on a sixth count. Smollett, who is Black and gay, maintained throughout the nearly three-year legal battle that he was attacked in downtown Chicago in January 2019 by people who yelled racist and anti-gay slurs and put a noose around his neck. He denied during the trial that he staged the attack.

Joni Mitchell joining Neil Young in protest over Spotify

NEW YORK (AP)—Joni Mitchell said Friday she is seeking to remove all of her music from Spotify in solidarity with Neil Young, who ignited a protest against the streaming service for airing a podcast that featured a figure who has spread misinforma-

tion about the coronavirus.

Mitchell, who like Young is a California-based songwriter who had much of her success in the 1970s, is the first prominent musician to join Young's effort. "Irresponsible people are spreading lies that are costing people their lives," Mitchell said Friday in a message posted on her website. "I stand in

solidarity with Neil Young and the global scientific and medical communities on this issue." Following Young's action this week, Spotify said it had policies in place to remove misleading content from its platform and has removed more than 20,000 podcast episodes related to COVID-19 since the start of the pandemic.

Dad's behavior compounds grieving teenager's loss

DEAR ABBY: I am a 17-year-old male whose mom passed away six months ago. From the time I was a small child, she was mean to me and never had time for me, but I never wished her dead. She was mean to my dad as well.

Since her passing, Dad has gone crazy about women. He has them over spending the night all the time or he goes and stays at their house. I have talked to him about it, but he says he deserves to be happy. I'm an only child and I'd like for him to be here for me. What can I do? I feel so lonely. I'm too much of an introvert to speak to anyone about this.

LONELY IN THE SOUTH

DEAR LONELY IN THE SOUTH: Please accept my sympathy for your loss. I am concerned because you are so isolated. While it may not be easy to talk about your feelings, it's the best way to deal with the pain you are experiencing.

Is there another relative in whom you can confide? The parent of a friend, a trusted teacher or counselor, or a religious adviser? Any of them could offer a willing ear and a soft shoulder. The only thing you should NOT do is keep these feelings bottled up inside because, if you do, they will only grow. I am sorry you are going through this alone. You appear to be more emotionally mature than your dad.

DEAR ABBY: For the last four or five years I have been receiving holiday cards from an ex-girlfriend of mine. I haven't had contact with her since meeting my wife. My wife and I have been together for six years, married for two. The cards keep coming and it's starting to make my wife uncomfortable. How do I respectfully tell my ex to quit sending them? I don't have anything in common with this person other than that we used to be boyfriend and girlfriend back in high school.

MARRIED NOW IN MASSACHUSETTS

DEAR MARRIED: This old flame may be simply trying to be friends, and not intend to pose a threat to your marriage. A way to discourage her might be to send her holiday greetings from you AND YOUR WIFE with a picture of the two of you, your kids if you have any, pets, etc. If you don't send Christmas greetings, perhaps a snapshot of you and your wife on vacation would suffice—or a wedding picture may get the message across.

DEAR ABBY: I work in a small office. We are allowing people to come in for meetings, to drop off information, etc. and we have asked that people wear a mask if they come in. I don't wear mine when I am at my desk alone; however, as

DEAR ABBY

By Abigail Van Buren
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.



soon as someone comes in or I get up to move around the office, I put it on right away.

A few clients who have come in maskless have said, as I grab my mask, "Oh, you don't need to put that on for me." I reply (nicely) with, "Yes, I do!" I wear my mask to protect others and I would appreciate reciprocity on their part. Do you have a better response?

JUST DOING MY PART

DEAR JUST DOING: After saying, "Yes, I do," add the next sentence you wrote to me, which explains your reasoning: "I wear my mask to protect others and I would appreciate reciprocity on your part." It is succinct, polite and gets across the message you are trying to convey. It's also company policy.

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson



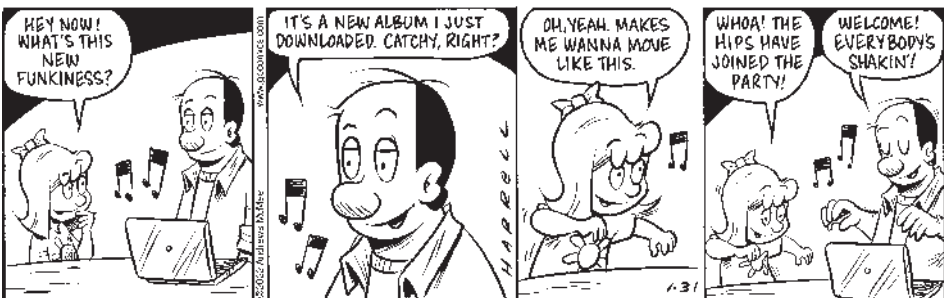
Garfield®

By Jim Davis



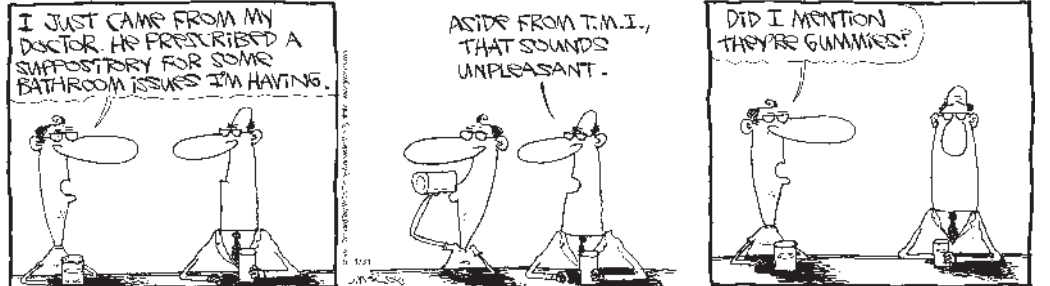
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset



The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 "That was close!"

5 Needle-fish

8 Ran in the wash

12 Pitch-correcting studio device

14 Ceremony

15 Involve again

16 Panache

17 Twitch

18 With precision

20 Icy

23 Taverns

24 Farm structure

25 Cheese variety

28 Italian article

29 Borscht base

30 Chopper

32 Moose features

34 Hosp. scans

35 Aliases

36 "This is only —"

37 Disco light

DOWN

40 Opposite of "post-"

41 Formerly, once

42 Types in anew

47 Gushing review

48 Chinese drink

49 iPhone down-loads

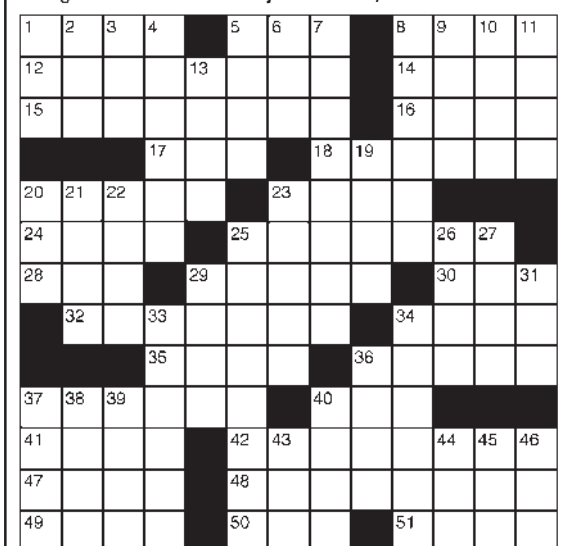
50 "A mousel!"

51 Very small batteries

Solution time: 26 mins.

A	R	F	C	L	A	N	T	E	T	E	
O	D	E	R	I	C	E	U	L	A	N	
L	A	M	B	A	S	T	E	P	A	I	D
I	O	T	A	C	E	L	L	O			
D	E	N	S	E	R	A	U	L			
I	R	I	S	L	A	M	P	O	O	N	S
A	M	S	S	A	G	A	S	D	O	C	
L	A	M	E	N	T	E	D	M	Y	C	B
V	I	S	I	T	S	A	W	S			
I	M	A	C	L	A	M	P	R	E	Y	S
T	I	N	T	O	D	O	R	Y	C	U	
O	N	E	S	Y	O	G	I	S	O	P	

Last Friday's Answer 01/31



STUMPED?

For answers to today's crossword, call 1-800-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Mario Williams, 37; Justin Timberlake, 41; Kerry Washington, 45; Portia de Rossi, 49.

Happy Birthday: Your quest is to decompartmentalize and reset your game plan to fit your current needs. Taking the time to assess will help you create a direct line to what you want to achieve. Stop paying the way for others, and start paying more attention to life, enlightenment and peace of mind. Choose to improve, and strive for happiness. Your numbers are 7, 13, 24, 27, 32, 36, 48.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Stick to what and who you know. Don't trust or take chances on someone or something that has no track record. Risk will not pay off. Aim for stability, and you will ease stress and find comfort in the decisions you make. ****

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Someone with superiority will scoff at your ideas or how you handle matters. Don't make a spontaneous move that can cost you. Preparation is mandatory if you want to reach your goal and get the rewards you deserve. **

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Use what you know to your benefit. Play your cards strategically, and you will outmaneuver anyone competing with you. Dedicate more time to deciding if you are ready to take on more challenges, and opportunities will be yours. *****

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Look over matters concerning your health, finances or contracts. Make sure everything is updated and that you haven't overlooked something that might come back to haunt you. Be passionate

about what you want, and you'll raise interest and support. ***

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): You'll be drawn to like-minded people and attract negativity from those who oppose your thoughts and desires. Don't waffle when it's time to make a decision. The best way forward is to eliminate what's holding you back. ***

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): A little extra effort will influence others. Step outside your comfort zone if it will ensure you get others to acknowledge how capable you are and the difference you can make. Advocate for what you want, and you will excel. ***

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Liberate yourself from the past, and embrace what excites you. Find ways to overcome any negative aspect in your life, and throw yourself wholeheartedly into what matters most to you. Be true to yourself, your beliefs, and what and who you love. *****

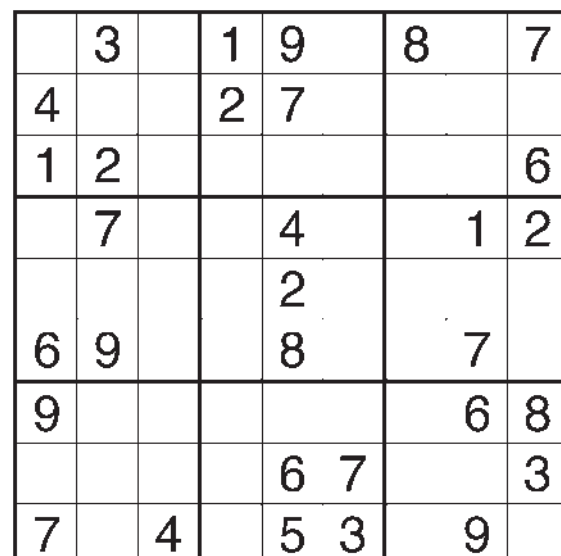
SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Touch base with old friends or relatives to see what they have to say. The information you collect will spark your imagination and help you find an exciting way to use your skills, knowledge and experience to prosper. **

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Put your head down and point yourself in a direction that shows promise through hard work, dedication and refusing to let anyone sidetrack you or interfere with your plans. Distance yourself from anyone who takes you for granted. ****

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green



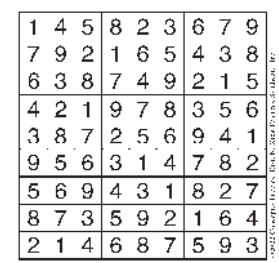
Difficulty Level ★

1/31

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Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's Answer



Difficulty Level: ****

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Put more thought into what you want to pursue. Making a lateral move may be less stressful, but it will only satisfy you momentarily. Look ahead and consider your long-term plan, and you'll recognize how to proceed. ***



AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Come up with a plan to pursue what's meaningful to you. Doing something that makes you feel good and helps others will lift your spirits and give you an incentive to reach out and offer your skills uniquely and sustainably. ***



PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Keep your thoughts to yourself. It's OK to reach out and help others make changes, but it doesn't mean you have to agree or copy their actions. Think for yourself and do your own thing. Turn your ideas into opportunities. ***

Birthday Baby: You are organized, helpful and intentional. You are spirited and reflexive.

☾: Avoid conflicts; work behind the scenes. ☼: You can accomplish, but don't rely on others. ☼☼: Focus and you'll reach your goals. ☼☼☼: Aim high; start new projects. ☼☼☼☼: Nothing can stop you; go for gold.

WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

THRIVING

Solution: 7 letters

T Y S C A R E E R E P S O R P
I N P S E N U T R O F A S T G
F A E P E L A W I S E N I S E
E P C M A C B E T S V R C T T
N M N V T H C R R A I A H U A
E O A I I I O U D P L E E D T
B C V O R N M E S G E L E Y I
U E D W G P I M V P O D R H D
S E A T L F S F O I I A S I E
I R L A S T I H L C R I L R M
N U N I U I G T A O R D U O B
E T T D F A X T N U W T X T R
S A E N E E E O E R E U N A
S N U T R I E N T U S G R E C
T R O P P U S E N I H S Y M E

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1/31

Active, Advance, Benefit, Bets, Business, Career, Cheer, Commitment, Company, Dedicate, Drive, Embrace, Exist, Fast, Fitness, Flower, Fortune, Goal, Grit, Happy, Hope, Learn, Life, Live, Luxury, Meditate, Mentor, Nature, Nourish, Nurture, Nutrient, Pass, Plants, Prosper, Satisfied, Shine, Spirit, Strong, Student, Study, Success, Support, Teach, Value, Wise

Last Friday's Answer: Pizza

To purchase WONDERWORD books, visit www.WonderWordBooks.com, or call 1-800-642-6480.

Raptors outlast Heat in 124-120 in triple-OT

MIAMI (AP) — Fred VanVleet hit two 3-pointers in the third overtime and the Toronto Raptors outlasted the Miami Heat 124-120 on Saturday night.

Gary Trent Jr. led Toronto with 33 points, Scottie Barnes added 22, Pascal Siakam had 21, and OG Anunoby 20. Sidelined the previous two games because of right knee soreness, VanVleet finished with 19 points.

"We hung in there and certainly could've went either way several times," Toronto coach Nick Nurse said. "And to just keep hanging in there and keep fighting and keep figuring it out."

VanVleet's first 3 tied it at 117. Anunoby's dunk with 3:05 left put Toronto ahead for good before VanVleet connected again from long distance and a 122-117 lead.

"We fought through some adversity so it was good for us tonight to stick it out and keep our composure," VanVleet said.

Jimmy Butler had a triple-double with 37 points, 14 rebounds and 11 assists for the Eastern Conference-leading Heat.

"It was highly competitive and wild swings, back and forth, of emotion," Miami coach Erik Spoelstra said. "It was going to require a great deal of mental toughness to be able to fight through a lot of frustrating moments in the first three quarters, but I thought we responded. Just a terrific ball game in the fourth quarter and all the overtimes."

After shooting 3 for 15 in regulation, VanVleet was 4 of 7 in the overtime periods.

"At that point we tried



Toronto Raptors guard Fred VanVleet (23) attempts a 3-point basket as Miami Heat center Bam Adebayo, left, defends during the first half of an NBA basketball game, Saturday, Jan. 29, 2022, in Miami.

everybody, everybody had a shot," VanVleet said. "Everybody had their chance once and it came to me again. By that point I'm going to shoot those and if we miss them we lose and if I make them we win."

Warriors 110, Nets 106

In San Francisco, Klay Thompson hit the biggest shot yet of his 2 1/2-year injury comeback, making a 3-pointer with 12 seconds left to send the Golden State Warriors to a 110-106 victory over Kyrie Irving and the Brooklyn Nets on Saturday night.

Irving wasn't done and made a 3 of his own moments later and scored 32 points

while hearing boos from the Bay Area crowd directed at the unvaccinated Nets star.

Thompson finished with 16 points. Stephen Curry hit a go-ahead 3-pointer with 5:09 left and five free throws over the final 1:44 to score 19 points as Irving kept delivering on the other end without the injured Kevin Durant and James Harden.

Andrew Wiggins contributed 24 points and eight rebounds as the Warriors made key late stops, including Irving's missed reverse layup try with a minute left. Jordan Poole added 17 points and six assists off the bench.

Brooklyn's Patty Mills made three 3-pointers in the final 9:46, tying it game at 96

with 4:42 remaining and finished with 24 points.

76ers 103, Kings 101

In Philadelphia, Joel Embiid scored 36 points, Tyrese Maxey keyed a game-changing run in the fourth quarter and Philadelphia beat Sacramento for its fourth straight victory.

Philadelphia held on when Harrison Barnes missed a 3-pointer as time expired. The 76ers have won 14 of 17 and the first three games of a five-game homestand that continues Monday night against Memphis.

Embiid had 12 rebounds and six assists. He made 10 of 18 field goals, including 2 of 5 3-pointers, and 14 of 18 free throws. Tobias Harris added

16 points, and Maxey had 13.

Tyrese Haliburton scored a career-high 38 points, and Barnes had 16 for the Kings. They have lost six in a row overall and 11 straight on the road. Scoring leader De'Aaron Fox sat out because of a left ankle injury.

Grizzlies 115, Wizards 95

In Memphis, Tenn., Ja Morant scored 34 points, his sixth straight game of at least 30 points, and Memphis beat Washington.

Morant, picked as an All-Star starter for the Western Conference this week, was 15 of 27 from the field, including 4 of 8 from 3-point range.

Desmond Bane had 19

points, and De'Anthony Melton added 13 to help the Grizzlies win their third straight and fourth in five games. Steven Adams had 10 points and 15 rebounds, with Memphis controlling the boards 60-37.

Kyle Kuzma led Washington with 30 points and eight rebounds. The Wizards have lost five straight.

Mavericks 132, Pacers 105

In Dallas, Luka Doncic had 30 points and 12 assists and Dallas spoiled former coach Rick Carlisle's return with Indiana.

Carlisle coached the Mavericks during the past 13 seasons, leading the team to its lone title in 2011. He resigned June 16 and rejoined the Pacers a week later. The 62-year-old coach was recognized with a video tribute before the game, tears streaming down his face afterward.

Reggie Bullock added a season-high 23 points, hitting 6 of 7 3-pointers, and Maxi Kleber had 15 points and 13 rebounds — one short of his career high — on his 30th birthday. The Mavericks have won 13 of 16 to improve to 29-21. Duane Washington Jr. led the Pacers with 22 points.

Celtics 107, Pelicans 97

In New Orleans, Jayson Tatum scored 38 points, Jaylen Brown added 31 and Boston beat short-handed New Orleans.

Robert Williams grabbed 16 rebounds and blocked four shots for Boston.

New Orleans undrafted rookie guard Jose Alvarado scored a career-best 19 points on 8-of-11 shooting, going 3 of 4 from 3-point range.

Analysis: LeBron feels great, on pace to pass Kareem

By **TIM REYNOLDS**
AP BASKETBALL WRITER

When LeBron James scored his sixth point on Tuesday during the Los Angeles Lakers' game at Brooklyn, it meant he had reached 36,387 in his career.

That put him 2,000 points shy of Kareem Abdul-Jabbar.

Start the countdown. It's no longer a question of if James will pass Abdul-Jabbar as the NBA's all-time scoring leader, but when. At his current pace, it's possible that James may move into the No. 1 spot by this time next season, maybe even a bit earlier.

"As I've continued to climb the ranks, it is natural, human, to look at it and see where you are and see if it's even possible, see if you're capable," James said.

It's more than possible.

He's more than capable.

James is going to get a taste of what it's like to catch Abdul-Jabbar in the next few games. When talking about official records, such as all-time scoring leaders, the NBA sticks solely to regular-season games and doesn't add playoff totals to the mix. Add Abdul-Jabbar's playoff games to his total, and he scored 44,149 points.

James scored 33 on Tuesday in a win over the Nets, pushing his overall total—including playoffs—to 44,045 points. Another three, four, maybe five games should be all it will take for James to have scored more points than anyone in NBA history. It won't be the official record. But on at least one list, James will be No. 1 in scoring very soon.

"He has a skillset that already has been well documented ... a pass-first guy who can lead the league in scoring," said Miami coach Erik Spoelstra, James'

former coach for four NBA Finals trips and two championships with the Heat.

Ah, the passing. Don't overlook that.

James is now 77 assists shy of 10,000 in his career. He's about to be the first triple-quintuple player in NBA history, the first with at least 10,000 points, 10,000 rebounds and 10,000 assists. He hit the rebound milestone last week; he'll probably hit the assist milestone sometime between now and the All-Star break. He could have had the scoring record long ago if he had turned down more of those assist opportunities.

"I've never chased a record in my life," James said. "I've never said, 'OK, let me see if I can get this record, let me see if I can get that record.'"

While there may not have been intent, technically, he's been chasing them since Day 1.

He was tied for 1,157th on the NBA's all-time scoring list after his rookie season. Moved into the top 500 after three seasons. Cracked the top 250 by Year 5. Was in the top 100 by the eighth season, the top 50 a year after that. By Year 14, he was in the top 10. And Tuesday's game in Brooklyn marked exactly two years since he moved into the No. 3 spot on the all-time scoring list by passing Kobe Bryant.

"Continuing to move the game forward (at) King James. Much respect my brother," Bryant tweeted that night, the final one ever sent from his account.

Bryant died the next day in the helicopter crash in which eight others, including his daughter Gianna, also perished. Bryant played in 1,346 regular-season games. James played in his 1,346th on Tuesday.

"Hall of Fame player,"

Spoelstra said of James. "Hall of Fame person."

Spoelstra has long said—and he's not the only one to believe this—that James is like none other, and the numbers back that up. There are 48 players who have scored 20,000 points; 43 who have grabbed 10,000 rebounds; 38 who have handed out 6,000 assists; 40 who have made 2,000 3-pointers. Some players are on two or three of those lists.

James is the only one on all four.

"For a pass-first type guy, I just think that's staggering," Spoelstra said.

And this climb up the charts isn't coming with James, now 37 and in his 19th season, sputtering to the career finish line. He's putting up MVP-type numbers, at times single-handedly trying to keep the Lakers afloat while they sputtered around the .500 mark and wait-

ed for Anthony Davis to return to the lineup. Davis made his comeback Tuesday, after missing 19 of the Lakers' last 21 games with a knee problem.

James is averaging 29.1 points, on pace for his highest average since the 2009-10 season. The record for anyone in their 19th season or later is a 22.3-point clip by Bryant in 2014-15; James is going to smash that. The record for anyone age 37 or older in a season is 23.4 points by Abdul-Jabbar in 1985-86; James is going to smash that, too.

James' 33 points on Tuesday also was his 18th consecutive game with at least 25. Nobody, this late in a career, has ever come close to doing that. Bryant had a 17-game streak in Year 17.

James is making it look easy.

"I don't need to score 30 a night, but I'm in one of the best zones offensively I've been in in my career," James said. "And I don't plan on stopping. That's just how I feel. I feel fantastic."

Sources: Despite reports, Tom Brady hasn't made up mind



TAMPA, Fla. (AP)—Only Tom Brady could turn a retirement decision into must-see drama.

Despite reports that he is retiring, Brady has told the Tampa Bay Buccaneers he hasn't made up his mind, two people familiar with the details told The Associated Press.

It's unknown when he'll make an announcement, leaving his team guessing and fans hoping for one more run that seems unlikely considering his age and family situation.

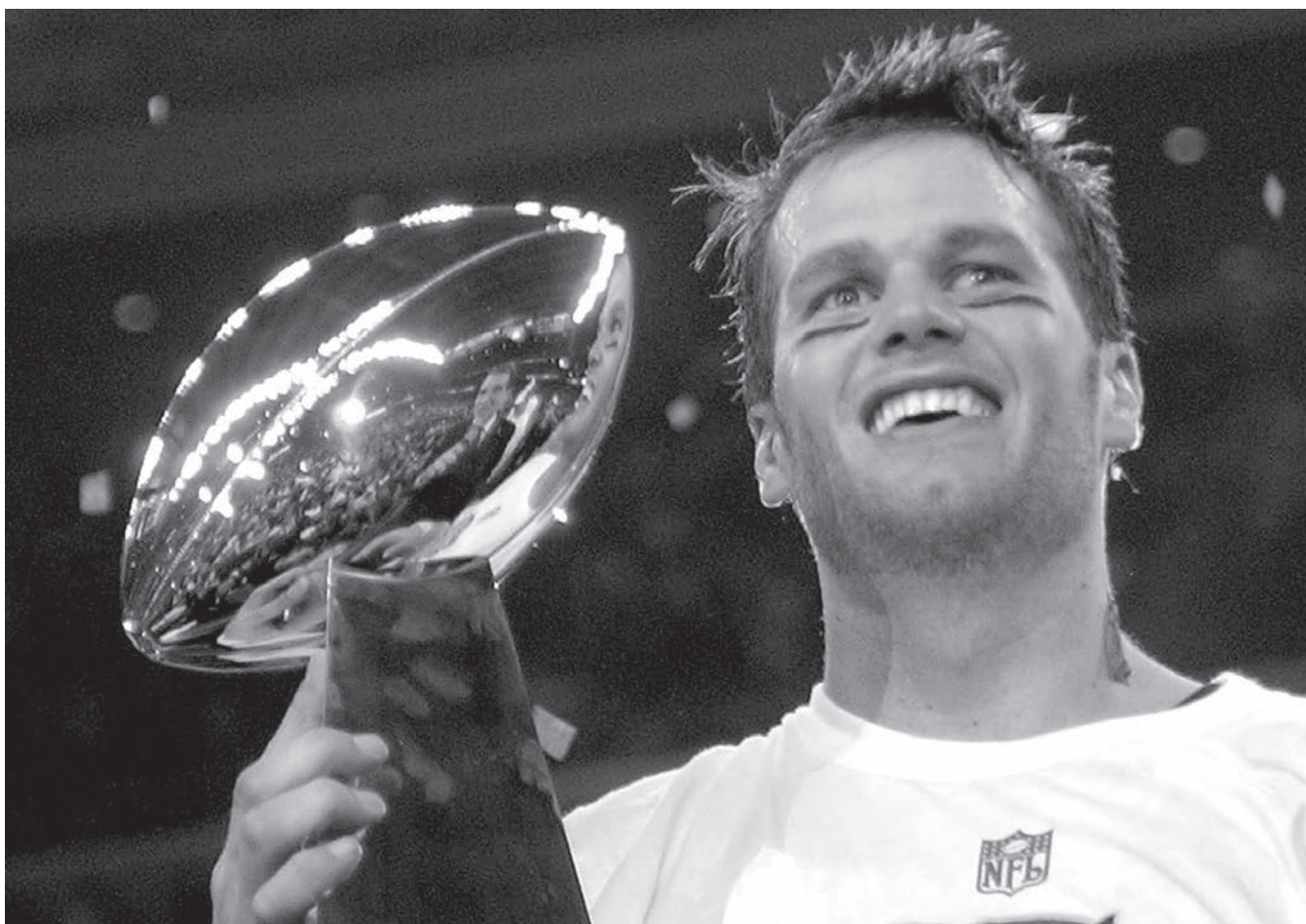
A week after leading the Buccaneers back from a 27-3 deficit against the Rams only to watch from the sideline as the defense allowed a game-winning drive, Brady's future took over the NFL landscape one day before a pair of conference championship games.

ESPN first reported Brady's retirement on Saturday, citing unidentified sources. Brady's company posted a tweet indicating he's retiring, and reaction came from around the world congratulating Brady on his career. Even the NFL's Twitter account posted a series of congratulatory messages.

But TB12sports deleted its tweet, and Brady's agent, Don Yee, said the 44-year-old quarterback would be the only person to accurately express his future.

Brady informed Buccaneers general manager Jason Licht he has not made a decision, according to two people who spoke to the AP on condition of anonymity because of the private nature of the conversations.

Brady's father, Tom Brady,



New England Patriots quarterback Tom Brady holds the Vince Lombardi Trophy after the Patriots beat the Carolina Panthers 32-29 in Super Bowl XXXVIII in Houston, Feb. 1, 2004.

Sr., told multiple reporters that his son hasn't made a firm decision yet.

A seven-time Super Bowl champion and the NFL's career leader in numerous passing categories, Brady is under contract for 2022, but he has cited a desire to spend more time with his wife, supermodel Gisele Bündchen, and three children.

Brady may be waiting to make an official announcement on his or his brands' social media channels or his SiriusXM podcast.

After ESPN's report, TB-

12sports' Twitter account posted: "7 Super Bowl Rings. 5 Super Bowl MVPs. 3 League MVP Awards. 22 Incredible Seasons. Thank you for it all, @TomBrady"

That post was removed, and Yee released this statement: "I understand the advance speculation about Tom's future. Without getting into the accuracy or inaccuracy of what's being reported, Tom will be the only person to express his plans with complete accuracy. He knows the realities of the football business and planning calendar as well as anybody,

so that should be soon."

Brady led the NFL in yards passing (5,316), touchdowns (43), completions (485) and attempts (719), but the Buccaneers lost at home to the Rams last Sunday in the divisional round.

Brady won six Super Bowls with the New England Patriots in 20 seasons playing for coach Bill Belichick. He joined the Buccaneers in 2020 and led them to the second Super Bowl title in franchise history.

Brady would leave the sport as the career leader in yards passing (84,520) and TDs

(624). He's the only player to win more than five Super Bowls and was MVP of the game five times.

Widely considered the greatest quarterback to play the game, Brady has won three NFL MVP awards, was a first-team All-Pro three times and was selected to the Pro Bowl 15 times. He is 243-73 in his career in the regular season and 35-12 in the playoffs.

Overlooked by every team coming out of Michigan, Brady was eventually selected by the Patriots in the sixth round of the 2000 NFL

draft. He replaced an injured Drew Bledsoe as the starter in 2001 and led New England to a Super Bowl victory over the heavily favored Rams that season.

Brady went on to lead the Patriots to Super Bowl victories over the Panthers following the 2003 season and Eagles after the 2004 season. No team has since repeated as champions.

But New England wouldn't win another one for a decade, twice losing to the New York Giants in the Super Bowl, including a 17-14 defeat on Feb. 3, 2008, that prevented the Patriots from completing a perfect season.

Brady earned his fourth ring when the Patriots held off Seattle thanks to Malcolm Butler's interception at the goal line in the Super Bowl after the 2014 season.

Two years later, in the biggest Super Bowl comeback, he led the Patriots out of a 28-3 deficit in the third quarter against Atlanta to win in overtime.

After losing to the Eagles and backup quarterback Nick Foles the following year, Brady got his sixth championship when New England shut down the Rams following the 2018 season.

He joined the Buccaneers in 2020 amid a pandemic, instilling a winning culture for a franchise that hadn't won a playoff game in 18 years. With his old friend Rob Gronkowski joining him in Tampa, Brady helped the Buccaneers become the first team to play in a Super Bowl in its stadium. Naturally, Brady won again.

Star-studded LA Rams host surging 49ers in NFC title game

INGLEWOOD, Calif. (AP)—Aaron Donald has been around long enough to know he might not get this chance again. The same goes for everybody in the Los Angeles Rams' constellation of stars around him.

Late in his eighth NFL season as the best defensive lineman of his generation, Donald's career is rich with individual honors, but lacking ultimate team success. The Rams (14-5) made several bold moves this season to build a team around Donald more capable of winning it all, and now they're one step away from playing in a Super Bowl in their home stadium when they host the San Francisco 49ers (12-7) in the NFC championship game on Sunday.

"I feel like I've accomplished a lot in a short amount of time in this league," said Donald, the seven-time All-Pro and three-time Defensive Player of the Year. "The only

thing I'm lacking now is being a world champion. To get to that point, we've got to win this week."

After crying on the sideline last January when the Rams' season slipped away in Green Bay, Donald is desperate to take that penultimate step toward his last career goal. So are Matthew Stafford, Jalen Ramsey, Andrew Whitworth, Odell Beckham Jr., Cooper Kupp and several other Rams whose otherwise impressive careers don't have that certain championship ring.

"So many teammates on my team, this is really all they need," said linebacker Von Miller, the Super Bowl 50 MVP with Denver and midseason Rams acquisition. "Aaron Donald, this is all he needs, and he has the whole shebang, you know? Andrew Whitworth and Eric Weddle and all of these guys, I want to do it for them."

These rivals match up su-

perbly, with both offenses relying heavily on an All-Pro receiver (Kupp and Deebo Samuel) and both defenses built around elite, dynamic pass rushers.

But if the Rams (14-5) don't overcome the 49ers' maddening mastery over them, all their big moves will end in checkmate.

San Francisco has won six consecutive meetings with Los Angeles, and not much in their first two meetings this season suggested Rams coach Sean McVay is close to clearing the monumental mental block separating him from his good friend, Kyle Shanahan.

The 49ers feel a related urgency heading back to SoFi Stadium, where they roared back from an early 17-point deficit and surged to yet another impressive victory over their California archrivals just three weeks ago — clinching a playoff berth, no less.

In fact, San Francisco might owe its entire season to its domination of the Rams: The Niners were 3-5 and going nowhere when they routed Los Angeles in mid-November, kicking off their current 9-2 surge.

If the Rams fall again Sunday, the disappointment will be crushing, but Donald thinks they're ready to shoulder the weight.

"This is a different type of football here that's going on this week," he said. "This week, my mindset is there's no way we're going to lose this game. We have to play four quarters. We have to find a way to finish, and I know we're going to do that."

CHAPTER 11

Shanahan has won seven of his 10 meetings with McVay in their concurrent half-decade careers. Preparing for this showdown was no challenge

for both coaches, and they say execution will win the NFC title, not trick plays or surprises.

"You know each other so well," Shanahan said. "We knew what the tape was going to look like before we turned it on, and they are the exact same way. ... We are going to see who makes the most plays and who makes the least mistakes."

NOT ROCKET SCIENCE

The 49ers' formula for beating the Rams has been fairly simple.

San Francisco generates four-man pressure from its vicious defensive front to slow LA's offense. When the Niners have the ball, Jimmy Garoppolo executes a quick-hit passing game designed to avoid the Rams' vaunted pass rush while exploiting Los Angeles' unimpressive linebackers and safeties in coverage.

McVay and his players know all of this. Whether they

have any correct answers to the same test they've already failed twice this year will be revealed Sunday.

GOLD RUSH

San Francisco's defensive front four has been dominant recently, generating five sacks three weeks ago against the Rams, and again in both playoff games. Arik Armstead has 5 1/2 sacks, and Nick Bosa got three. The Niners' depth up front has been difficult to match: San Francisco is the first team to have back-to-back playoff games with at least five sacks in the same season since Washington did it in the 1991 playoffs on the way to the title. The only team ever to do it three straight times in a season was Washington in the 1987 playoffs, also on the way to a championship.

"Usually the teams at this point in the year all have good pass rushes," Shanahan said. "I think it's pretty hard to get to this point when you don't have one."

Nadal, Medvedev to meet in history-making Australian final



MELBOURNE, Australia (AP)—Rafael Nadal is within one victory of a men's record 21st Grand Slam singles title.

He'll have to beat second-seeded Daniil Medvedev in the Australian Open final on Sunday to make history. And Medvedev is chasing a piece

of history of his own after beating Stefanos Tsitsipas 7-6 (5), 4-6, 6-4, 6-1 in a heated semifinal on Friday. The U.S. Open champion is aiming to be the first man in the Open era to win his second Grand Slam title at the next major tournament.

Nadal advanced to the final in Australia for the sixth time

with a 6-3, 6-2, 3-6, 6-3 win in a mostly lopsided contest against seventh-seeded Matteo Berrettini in the first of the men's semifinals.

Medvedev had a more tempestuous and challenging run to back-to-back Australian Open finals. He had to deal with a hostile crowd in his second-round win over Nick Kyrgis.



Daniil Medvedev of Russia gestures to chair umpire Jaume Campistol during a break in his semifinal against Stefanos Tsitsipas of Greece at the Australian Open tennis championships in Melbourne, Australia, Friday, Jan. 28, 2022.

NMC's 2022 Golf Open set for March 19

In its effort to advance post-secondary education in the CNMI, the Northern Marianas College has announced that its signature event, the 17th Annual NMC Foundation Golf Open, will be held on March 19 at the east course of the LaoLao Bay Golf & Resort.

Funds raised from the tournament will be used to help fund the college's critical expenses. These expenses include the rebuilding and expansion of NMC's facilities as well as programmatic and other expenses that advance the college's mission of providing affordable, high quality education to residents of the CNMI.

"Throughout the years, the



NMC Golf Open has built a loyal following of golfers and supporters who are dedicated to helping the college," said NMC president Galvin Deleon Guerrero, EdD. "The funds raised from the tournament will go towards supporting the college's efforts to create more opportunities for students and help them meet their educational goals."

The tournament fee for this year's golf open is \$120. Payments can be made at the NMC Cashier at the college's As Terlaje campus or at LaoLao Bay Golf and Resort. A registration form along with information about the tournament can be found at www.marianas.edu.

There will be six separate flight categories: Championship, A, B, C, Seniors, and Ladies (low gross and low net). There will be a number of great prizes and awards to players and sponsors. Slots for the tournament fill up fast, so interested players are encouraged to register early.

The college is asking companies, organizations, and individuals who are interested in sponsoring holes and/or for any in-kind or cash donation to help support the CNMI's post-secondary institution. For more information on how to become a sponsor, please call 237-6780. **(PR)**

MIYAWAKI

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MP United now counts nine alumni that either played or are now playing college soccer in the U.S. The others are Lucas Knecht, Bo Barry, Enrico del Rosario, Scott Kim, John Taisacan, Sunjoon Tenorio, Dai Podziewski, and Joshua Abragan.

"I'm very excited for the challenge," said Miyawaki when asked how much he's looking forward to playing NCAA Division I soccer.

Northern Mariana Islands Football Association technical director Michitetsu Mita gave kudos to Miyawaki for committing to Merrimack College.

"I would like to congratulate Rintaro and his family, MPU. This is great news for NMI soccer family he committed to NCAA Division I."

Mita said NMIFA still has its sights including Miyawaki to the CNMI Men's National Football Team.

"Since he left the islands we've continued showing me interest in playing NMI national team. Last year, he sent me his highlight videos. I was very impressed with his growth."

Mita said Miyawaki can score not only with his right foot but also with his left foot from different angles. He also can create many scoring opportunities by crosses or through passes.

"He is a utility player and he can play different positions. That skill is a requirement for a modern top soccer player. He also has a mentality to overcome challenges. I know he made a tremendous effort to improve his weak foot."

He added that the former MPU player continues to be a source of inspiration to young soccer players back home.

"To join a Division I team, a player also has to be academically good and has to have high GPA. He is really a role model for our national youth team players. I'm really looking forward to seeing his further achievements not only in college but also in the NMI national team."

gios, had to save a match point and rally from two sets down to beat Felix Auger-Aliassime in a nearly five-hour quarterfinal win. Then he had to regain his composure after an angry outburst in the second set of the semifinals.

The Russian yelled at chair

umpire Jaume Campistol in the changeover after serving a double-fault to concede a late break, getting a code violation for a visible obscenity when he made a gesture with his arm to the pro-Tsitsipas crowd, and then demanded that his opponent be cautioned

for receiving coaching from his father — in Greek — from the stands.

Medvedev returned after Tsitsipas converted his third set point to level the match and he again urged the umpire to give the French Open runner-up a code violation.

MP United FC president Vickie Izuka said Miyawaki was already a high-energy athlete even before he joined the club.

"He was playing many sports including tennis, swimming, and running when he also started to play soccer. Over the years, he was unstoppable and could run a race in the morning, participate in a swim meet or play multiple games in a tennis tournament, and then on the same day, he could finish the day playing soccer and still be fast and furious on the pitch. In 2014 when he was 10, Rintaro traveled with MPU's traveling U14 team to the Pinas Cup in the Philippines and was the smallest but a fearless striker

on the team. His dream was to train and be on the NMI national team, but he was always just shy to be eligible for the youngest U14 national program."

NMIFA vice president said their former ward eventually moved to the U.S. mainland and that's where his athletic skills further progressed.

"Fast forward to today where he was able to spend his high school days playing in New York and showcased himself in the highly competitive high school soccer environment there. Rintaro has been accepted to Merrimack, a D1 college and our club is so very proud of him. He continues the trend of MPU players going on to college and many playing

high-level college soccer. We believe Rintaro will continue to do great things and achieve all his childhood dreams. We hope he can also participate in the NMI national team competitions when they reconvene safely from the pandemic. We wish him all the best as he embarks on his new soccer journey," said Izuka.

MPU vice president and technical director Norman Del Rosario said he's no longer surprised that Miyawaki was able to latch on to a NCAA Division I school.

"Rintaro is the kind of player that a coach would wish for to have in his team because he is a hard worker and very coachable."

PSS

From Page 20

that some members did test positive for the coronavirus.

"Due to the possible link to our ongoing basketball leagues, we will be pausing high school basketball programs until Wednesday, Feb.

9. We will work on amending the season schedules for both the boys and girls season to avoid missing any other competitions."

The Athletic Program director said those who have concerns they may have caught the virus or are showing symptoms should avail themselves of free commu-

nity-based testing by registering at <https://covidtesting.chcc.health/>.

Gross said before the Feb. 9 start date, rest assured PSS' Athletic Program will make sure all protocols are in place to resume the season safely and the students' healthcare in mind.

"Prior to restarting programs, we will assess current

COVID-19 mitigation plans and work on identifying ways to increase mitigation to ensure the safe resumption of indoor sport. As always, we appreciate your assistance, patience and support as we navigate the safe reopening of sport," he said.

The Northern Mariana Islands Basketball Federa-

tion-managed IT&E Inter-scholastic High School Basketball League has a total of eight teams taking part in the boys regular season—Mt. Carmel School Varsity and Junior Varsity, Kagman High School Varsity and Junior Varsity, Saipan International School, Marianas High School, Da'ok Acad-

emy, and Saipan Southern High School.

In the girls competition, Mt. Carmel School, Marianas High School, and Saipan Southern High School are seeing action in the regular season. Tinian and Rota high schools are expected to join the boys and girls competition come the playoffs.

NMITA

From Page 20

Championships. But if we can work it out we'd welcome more opportunities to go play against Guam," said Race.

And speaking of the North Pacific Regional Championships, the NMITA head said he's still not sure if they'll have it this year following cancellations in 2020 and 2021.

"I'm waiting to hear back from the Oceania Tennis Federation as to what the status is this year if we're having it. But you know it's so hard. We thought we'd get out of this thing and Delta would be finished and then Omicron comes along, I don't know. I guess you just have to roll with the punches. But at some point, when you say 'we're just going to take vaccinated people and we're going to

and we're going to play'... you just can't stay away forever from this things. You have to jump in at some point," he said.

Asked if NMITA has required proof of vaccination for its sanctioned tournaments, Race said they haven't but that he highly encourages tennis players who do sign up to get the vaccine.

"We're not checking on that. We're all outdoor here... Although, I tend to think at

this point if you haven't gotten vaccinated then you're doing something wrong."

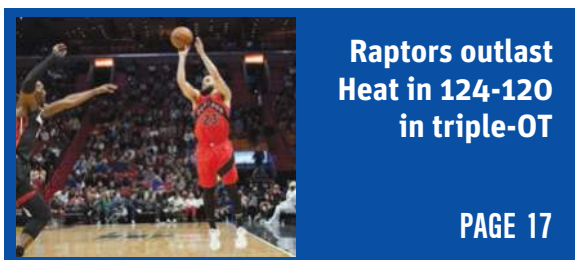
Under NMSA's Marianas Cup concept, CNMI teams will challenge Guam teams every year. So far, four options on how the Marianas Cup would proceed has been suggested. The first option would be Guam hosting as much as 18 sports. The second option is the CNMI will take the hosting duties. The

third is the CNMI and Guam will split the sports with half taking place in the latter and the other half in the former. The fourth, which NMSA president Jerry Tan concedes is the most doable, is individual sports will arrange their respective Marianas Cup events against their counterpart sports federations in Guam.

Tan earlier said the genesis of the Marianas Cup idea

came about following the postponement of the 2022 Micronesian Games. He said a lot of athletes training for the 2022 Games in the Marshall Islands would effectively have to wait another year to compete in a regional event.

The Marianas Cup, Tan said, would give athletes the impetus to train year-round because they always have a yearly competition to look forward to.



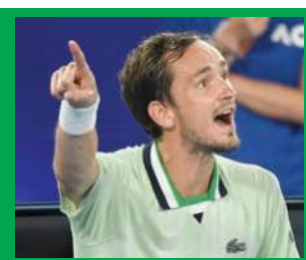
Raptors outlast
Heat in 124-120
in triple-OT

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Nadal, Medvedev
to meet in
history-making
Australian final

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SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Miyawaki commits to Merrimack College

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Rintaro Miyawaki will play NCAA Division 1 soccer after committing to Merrimack College.

The former MP United Football Club midfielder chose Merrimack College, which plays in the Northeast Conference, after also getting offers from Iona College and College of Staten Island.

"I'm looking forward to attending Merrimack. I also got offers from Iona and CSI but I decided on Merrimack because it seemed like the right fit for me," he said in a social media message to *Saipan Tribune*.

Named to the 2021 Lohud

Elite 11 while suiting up for the Westchester Flames, Miyawaki said he's still undecided what he'll major in at Merrimack College.

"I don't know yet what I'll major in but I want to thank all the teammates I had and coaches I had for this accomplishment. I want to win stuff with the team. My message back to Saipan would be that keep working for their dreams."

With Miyawaki committing to Merrimack College,

See MIYAWAKI on Page 19



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Rintaro Miyawaki, seen here in action with the Westchester Flames, will suit up for Merrimack College Warriors in the 2022-2023 NCAA Division I season.

NMITA welcomes more opportunities to play Guam

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSOCIATE EDITOR

The Northern Mariana Islands Tennis Association welcomes the Marianas Cup concept being pushed by the Northern Marianas Sports Association.

"I think it's a great idea. The more off-island competitions that most sports can get, the better," said NMITA president and CNMI Sports Hall of Fame coach Jeff Race.

He added though that the Marianas Cup concept may be more important for other sports compared to tennis because before COVID-19, Commonwealth and Guam

junior tennis players have already been meeting regularly through the North Pacific Regional Championships.

"We do have a fair bit of interaction with Guam as we play them every year in the North Pacific Regional

See NMITA on Page 19



Race

PSS pauses HS basketball due to COVID concerns

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Public School System Athletic Program director Nick Gross has momentarily put a pause to the ongoing boys and girls IT&E Interscholastic High School Basketball League at the Marianas High School Gymnasium due to COVID-19 concerns.

"It has come to my attention that some members of the teams, coaches, and officials have begun experiencing symptoms associated with COVID infection. Many have availed of testing and others experiencing symptoms should do so as well," he said in a mass email to schools taking part in the competition.

Gross said while he has yet to receive the results of all who have tested, he was informed

See PSS on Page 19



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Saipan Southern High School's T.J. Factor, second left, is hounded by two Kagman High School defenders during their game in the IT&E Interscholastic Boys High School Basketball League last Jan. 21 at the Marianas High School Gymnasium.